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ESTABLISHED 1859

Subscription: Fourpence a Week, Ten Shillings a Year.  
Summer and Winter Numbers 1s. per Copy.

CHIEF OFFICES: 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.  
BRANCH OFFICES: 231 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE,  
AND 114A PITT STREET, SYDNEY.

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## CHRISTMAS WEEK.

NEXT week we go to press on Wednesday. Correspondents and reporters should send in their MSS. not later than Tuesday. We cannot receive Advertisements for the Supplement after 5 P.M. on Wednesday.

## THOSE EIGHT QUESTIONS.

WE wish our home subscribers to bear in mind that the last day for returning their DIARY Coupon postcards is December 31. Each copy of the DIARY sent out contained a card attached to a list of eight questions, which we wish to be answered. We will distribute 10s. 10s. in prizes to those who send in the best answers.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

WE regret to state that the advertisement of Messrs. John Jakson & Co., Mitcham Road Steam Distilleries, Croydon, was inserted in "THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY," 1897, in an incorrect state. Messrs. John Jakson & Co. duly corrected the proofs, and the note of their corrections was unaccountably overlooked in this office. We have passed many thousands of pages of advertisements through our journals and diaries and have never had such an occurrence before, and much regret that the accident should have happened on this occasion.

## Summary.

SEVERAL useful formulæ are printed on pp. 906-8.

THE remarkable career of a burglar-chemist is sketched on p. 876.

A FEW medicine-contracts which have been settled are reported (p. 875).

OUR Town Traveller reports on several calls which he has recently made (p. 883).

A STRYCHNINE-MAKER in London has poisoned himself with his product (p. 875).

A CHRISTMAS appeal on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund is made on p. 891.

WE report a death from bichromate of potash, taken instead of the bicarbonate (p. 876).

THERE is still some trouble about the Brewers' Exhibition, as will be seen from the note on p. 893.

THE Glamorgan analyst is strongly opposed to the use of boric acid as a milk-preservative (p. 874).

MR. BARRETT (J. & E. Atkinson) again comments upon Mr. Conroy's views regarding otto of rose (p. 902).

THERE has been an interesting discussion in the Society of Public Analysts regarding the tests for ginger (p. 902).

A SUBSTITUTE for the acid used in gazogene charges and two kinds of tabloids are the novelties described on p. 880.

A NOTE on the scandalous manner in which English goods are imitated in New South Wales is printed on p. 880.

MR. BRANSON communicates some interesting notes on radiography, which will be of practical value to chemists (p. 885).

THE makers of Battle's vermin-killer have been fined under the Pharmacy Act for illegal retail sales of it (p. 888).

MR. GEDDES, agent for St. Jacobs oil, replies to our criticism of last week, and other correspondents express their views (p. 903).

THE William Gossage Laboratories, in Liverpool, were opened last Saturday, Professor Ramsay being the principal speaker (p. 874).

THE Paris School of Pharmacy last year had 1,869 students, being 67 more than in the previous year. These included 27 foreigners (p. 879).

THE Medical Council election has resulted in the return of Drs. Rentoul, Brown, and Glover for England, and Dr. Bruce for Scotland (p. 876).

IN our Trade Report section we report a meeting of Mincing Lane brokers whereat the arbitration clause of the arrival contracts was discussed and altered (p. 888).

MR. WM. DAY, of Southampton, has replied to the circular to manufacturers lately issued by the retail members of the executive of the P.A.T.A. (p. 896). Mr. Day also writes in reply to Mr. Glyn-Jones (p. 893).

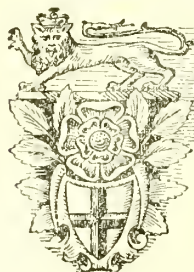
A NEW Pharmacy Bill has been introduced into the French Chamber of Deputies, which proposes the abolition of the second-class diploma, and gives greater protection to the individual pharmacist by discouraging stores (p. 878).

THE executors of the late Mr. W. F. Young, chemist, Kilmarnock, have proceeded against the father of the deceased, who took possession of the pharmacy on his son's death; but defendant satisfied the Court that the pharmacy is his own (p. 877).

AT a Council meeting of the P.A.T.A. it was stated that the members now number 1,600. A guarantee fund of 500% has been subscribed. An assistant secretary has been appointed, and retail members of the Council are to have their railway-expenses paid (p. 896).

TWO arsenical-soap cases, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, are reported on p. 889. In one the summons was dismissed because the analyst stated he found arsenic in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{100}$  gr. to the pound. The other case was adjourned for reference to Somerset House (p. 888).





## English News

*The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.*

### The Use of Boric Acid in Milk and Butter.

The Glamorgan County Council have considered reports by Mr. C. A. Seyler, analyst, and Dr. W. Williams, medical officer, on the adulteration of milk and butter with boric acid or borax. Mr. Seyler recognises that for the sake of cheapness supplies of such substances from long distances should not be cut off, and such supplies can be most simply preserved by the use of certain antiseptic chemicals. On the other hand, such chemicals, from the very nature of their function, must be powerful drugs, with the property of arresting animal and vegetable life, and therefore it is of the utmost importance that they should be used, if at all, in such quantities as shall be quite innocuous to the most delicate constitutions. Preservatives are often very ignorantly used, and in quantities largely in excess of what it is necessary. He states, on the authority of Dr. Thomas Stevenson, of Guy's Hospital, that he considers 0.25 per cent. of boric acid, the amount usually found in Normandy butter, to be quite innocuous and sufficient. He has found as much as 0.75 per cent. In milk, which is consumed by children and invalids in much larger quantities than butter, the presence of boric acid is more important. Dr. Stevenson thinks that 0.1 per cent. is sufficient to keep milk for a reasonable time. The use of boric acid in milk is entirely prohibited in France, and some of the largest milk-supply companies in the Metropolis entirely forbid it, thus showing that there is no absolute necessity for its use. At Birmingham convictions have been obtained for boric acid in milk to the extent of 60 to 65 gr. per gallon. After fully discussing the subject, Mr. Seyler concludes that borax and boric acid should not be sanctioned as preservatives to milk, butter, &c., unless very stringent rules indeed are passed as to the quantity to be used.

### Fires.

A fire occurred on Thursday evening, December 11, on the premises of Mr. J. D. Furnival, chemist and druggist, Hanley. The fire brigade were at work for about an hour before the fire was got under. In a bookseller's shop adjoining, Sir Noel Paton's picture "De Profundis," valued at 6,000*l.*, was being exhibited, so that special attention was given to the prevention of the spread of the flames in that direction. The back portion of Mr. Furnival's premises was completely gutted, but fortunately the front shop escaped, although all the goods were spoiled by the heat and smoke. The damage, which is covered by insurance, is estimated at over 1,000*l.*, as the store-rooms had only lately been restocked.

About 8 o'clock on Wednesday night, when Mr. Henry Highfield, chemist, Upper St. Philip's Road, Sheffield, was in his cellar, a candle he was carrying fell on a sack saturated with oil, and set it on fire. The flames spread, and attacked several drums of paraffin, and the contents of the cellar were soon in a blaze. The fire brigade soon put it out. The damage is not very great, and is covered by insurance.

### The Uses of Turmeric.

At last week's meeting of the Manchester Section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists a paper was read by Mr. L. G. Radcliffe on the properties and tinctural value of curcumin, which is the colouring-matter of turmeric. The Chairman (Mr. W. H. Pennington) said that turmeric was one of those natural dye-stuffs evidently doomed to extinction. He had been told that it was now largely used in the manufacture of mustard-powders.

### "William Gossage" Laboratories

Last Saturday the new chemical laboratories of the Liverpool University College were opened by the Earl of Derby,

Professor William Ramsay delivering the address to the students. The chemical laboratories of the College have never been commensurate with the chemical importance of the city, but want of money prevented their development. So, some time ago, Mr. F. H. Gossage and Mr. T. Sutton Timmis undertook jointly to build and fit up a further section of the building, including the largest of the main laboratories and rooms below, at a cost of 7,000*l.*, and to present them to the College as a memorial of the late Mr. William Gossage. Other portions of the buildings are being erected by subscription, amongst the donors being Sir John T. Brunner, M.P., 1,000*l.*; Mr. E. K. Muspratt, 1,000*l.*; and Messrs. Lever Brothers, 1,000*l.* The new buildings complete the Brownlow Street frontage, and include a large laboratory 60 feet by 32 feet, with benches fitted up for forty-four advanced students, an adjacent room provided with a new form of heated sand-bath and other appliances for the service of the main laboratory, and, in the basement, an additional lecture-room to seat seventy or eighty, a preparation-room, and a gas-analysis room. These five rooms, which are lined with ivory-glazed bricks, constitute the "William Gossage" laboratories. The other new buildings are a metallurgical laboratory with furnaces and other equipment, a store for apparatus and chemicals, a dynamo-room, electric-accumulator room, and a heating-chamber. In his address Professor Ramsay contrasted the opportunities of studying chemistry to day and in Faraday's time, rather regretting that students now have only to go to the apparatus-shop round the corner for what they want. It would be better for them, he said, if they had to rough it a bit, for as an engineer should be able to make his own tools, so should a chemist. Starting from crude material, he should be able to produce pure chemicals; starting with glass tubes, he should be able to extemporise a blowpipe, and make the most complicated apparatus. He should be a reasonably good gasfitter and turner; he should be able to solder a joint, and he should be able to turn to account nearly every apparently useless article. The Earl of Derby afterwards spoke, then Mr. Sutton Timmis (on behalf of Mr. F. H. Gossage) presented the Earl with a silver casket containing the key of the building, and when some more speeches had been spoken, Lord Derby, followed by the rest of the assembly, proceeded to the laboratory, unlocked the door, and formally took possession of the building on behalf of University College.

### Royal Institution Lectures.

The programme of lectures has been issued this week. Amongst the courses to be delivered before Easter are the following:—Christmas lectures for juveniles: On "Light, Visible and Invisible," by Professor Silvanus P. Thompson (six lectures beginning on December 27); on "Animal Electricity," by Professor Augustus D. Waller, M.D. (twelve lectures); on "Some Secrets of Crystals," by Professor Henry A. Miers, M.A., F.R.S. (three lectures); on "Electricity and Electrical Vibrations," by Lord Rayleigh (six lectures). The Friday evening meetings will begin on January 22, when Professor Dawar will lecture on "The Properties of Liquid Oxygen." The other fixtures are: January 29, The Lord Bishop of London on "The Picturesque in History"; February 5, Professor J. C. Bose (Calcutta), on "The Polarisation of the Electric Ray"; February 12, Professor John Milne on "Recent Advances in Seismology"; February 19, Mr. G. Johnstone Stoney on "The Approaching Return of the Great Swarm of November Meteors"; February 23, Lieut.-Col. C. R. Conder on "Palestine Exploration"; March 5, Mr. Shelford Bidwell on "Some Curiosities of Vision"; March 12, Professor Arthur Smithells on "The Source of Light in Flames"; March 19, Sir E. Maunde Thompson on "Greek and Latin Palaeography"; March 26, Sir William Turner on "Early Man in Scotland"; April 2, Mr. Charles T. Heycock on "Metallic Alloys and the Theory of Solution," and April 9, when Lord Rayleigh will lecture on a subject to be announced.

### Considerate for the Chemist.

William John Grimes, keeper of dining-rooms at Yarmouth, who poisoned himself by taking 2 oz. of arsenic, left a letter which was read at the inquest, in which he said "The chemist is in no way to blame as I deceived him by telling a



lie that I wanted the poison for rats." This was the case. The chemist was Mr. T. J. Woodcock.

#### Hiera Picra Contrabrand

A man named George Wilson was charged at Clerkenwell Police Court on Saturday with unlawfully conveying a packet of hiera picra, a poisonous drug, into Holloway gaol, contrary to the prison regulations. The packet of powder was found by one of the warders concealed in the centre of a piece of bread, which the prisoner brought, with some other provisions, and asked to be given to a young woman who was awaiting her trial. Mr. Horace Smith fined the defendant 5*l.*, and as he was not able to pay he was sent to prison. On the same day the girl was liberated, as there was no evidence against her. They are said to be man and wife.

#### A Perfumed Fire.

Last week, whilst Mr. Young, chemist, Torquay, was bottling his Torquay Pier bouquet one of the large bottles was accidentally knocked over and the contents caught fire. Before the flames could be extinguished a number of smaller bottles were broken and their contents burnt. Fortunately, the fire was promptly subdued before any serious damage was done.

#### Chemists and Vaccination.

At the Torquay Police Court, on December 3, Mrs. W. Milne, wife of a chemist now abroad, was summoned to show cause why an order should not be made on her to have her children vaccinated. She asked that the case might be adjourned until the return of her husband. Six summonses had previously been issued against Mr. Milne or Mrs. Milne. The Bench declined to adjourn the case, and made the usual order against Mrs. Milne.

At Uttoxeter Petty Sessions, on December 9, Mr. George R. Hankinson, chemist and druggist, Uttoxeter, was summoned at the instance of the Board of Guardians for neglecting to have his child vaccinated. A fine of 1*l.* and 8*s.* costs was imposed.

#### Chemists at Football.

A match was played at Causton's Athletic Grounds, East Dulwich, on December 5, between the Barronetta F.C. (Barron, Harveys & Co.) and Causton's F.C. (Sir Joseph Causton & Sons), and resulted in a win for the Barronetta by two goals to *nil*.

On Saturday, December 12, the Barronetta F.C. played the Buckhurst Hill F.C. at Buckhurst Hill. The game, which was greatly curtailed owing to the bad light, ended in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

Pharmaceuticals *v.* Muter's. Played at Wormholt Farm on Saturday, the Pharmaceuticals scoring 4 to *nil*. Team: Lean, goal; Jones and Miles, backs; Nelson, Webster, and Smith, half-backs; Day, Tebbutt, Fothergill (centre), Happold and Jackson, forwards. The return match arranged for Saturday, December 19, has been postponed owing to the vacation.

#### Medicine-contracts.

The Guardians of Cannock Union have accepted the following tenders for the ensuing quarter:—Mr. D. W. Clarke, Cannock—Calvert's carbolic soap (No. 9), 32*s.* per cwt.; Calvert's carbolic soft soap, 30*s.* per cwt. Mr. T. W. Garland, Cannock—Linseed-meal, 18*s.* per cwt.; brimstone 1½*d.* per lb. Mr. S. Parkes, Cannock—Saltpetre, 3½*d.* per lb.

At the meeting of the Kingston-on-Thames Board of Guardians on December 8, the Clerk stated that after eight months the Local Government Board had returned the contracts for the supply of quinine and cod-liver oil, and had stated that they might be abandoned for new ones if the Guardians so wished.

At the meeting of the Southampton Board of Guardians on Friday, the tender of Messrs. Bates & Co., of Southampton, for the supply of drugs and chemicals to the Workhouse was accepted.

The Elham (Kent) Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Corbyn & Co., of Great St. Helen's, London, for the supply of drugs to the Union workhouse. Mr. Heron, of Folkestone, supplies extract of beef at 7*s.* 3*d.* per lb., linseed-meal at 2*d.* per lb., and arrowroot at 4½*d.* per lb.

#### They Preferred a Dispenser.

At the meeting of the Aston Board of Guardians on December 9, the General Purposes Committee recommended that a qualified dispenser should be appointed. The rejection of the recommendation was moved on the ground that the dispensing by the medical officer had worked well. The recommendation was, however, adopted.

#### Strychnine-maker takes Strychnine.

On Monday, at the Battersea Coroner's Court, Mr. A. Braxton Hicks held an inquest touching the death of William Smith (28), a leading hand in the strychnine department at Messrs. Whiffen & Co.'s chemical-works, Lombard Road, Battersea, who died from strychnine-poisoning on the previous Tuesday at the Wandsworth Infirmary. The widow stated that deceased was a steady man, but lately had been much depressed, complaining of his head, and saying he thought he should go mad. On the night of December 5, in answer to her inquiry, he confessed that he had got a girl into trouble. In the morning when he got up he took a razor and threatened to cut his throat and hers. She was very much afraid, and screamed, and afterwards followed him to the bedroom, when he again threatened to kill her. Shortly afterwards he left the house. In the evening witness met the deceased and the girl he had spoken about. Questions ensued, and eventually her husband came home. He was restless all night, and left for work as usual on the Tuesday morning. Later in the day she heard he was at the Infirmary, having taken poison. Evidence was given that the deceased was seized with convulsive fits whilst at work. He denied having taken any strychnine. He had been in the firm fourteen years. Dr. J. B. Neal, Medical Superintendent of the Infirmary, said death was due to strychnine-poisoning. The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind.

#### An Illegal Sale of Strychnine.

An inquest was held at Weston-super-Mare on December 10, concerning the death of John Chard, a journeyman tailor, who had died from taking some vermin-killer which he bought from a Mr. Dale. Leonard Dale—having been cautioned that he was not obliged to answer any question which he might think detrimental to himself—stated that he was an unregistered chemist, carrying on business at 76 Meadow Street. He detailed that the deceased came into his shop and asked for a shilling packet of rat-poison. Witness told him that a sixpenny packet was the largest he supplied, and deceased took it and tendered a shilling, witness giving him sixpence change. Deceased stated that he wanted the poison for destroying rats. The poison contained 10 gr. of strychnine and 1 dr. of arrowroot. Witness made up the poison at the time; he did not keep the packets already made up. He did not tell the deceased the contents of the packet. Strychnine was a scheduled poison under the Poisons Act, 1868. He was supposed to obtain the signature of the purchaser under this Act. He had not obtained this, although he made a note of having sold the poison to Chard. He had known the man for many years, and therefore did not ask him for his signature as required by the Act. There was nothing in the man's manner to suggest that he was out of his mind; if there had been he should not have supplied him with the poison. After other evidence, the jury returned the usual verdict.

#### Hanover St. Social.

The office-staff of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., held their annual dinner on Saturday evening last at the Angel Hotel. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. L. Birchall, and the vice-chair by Mr. J. G. Todd. A very pleasant evening was spent in the usual manner.

#### Carbolic acid Fatalities.

A man named Hewitt died at Dover last week through drinking the carbolic supplied by the Corporation. This is the second case of suicide with the Dover Corporation's carbolic within a few weeks.

William Henry Smith (21), gun machinist, of Birmingham while temporarily insane drank a quantity of carbolic acid from a bottle and died.

Walter H. Young, a child aged 2½ years, whose parents reside at Bishopston, drank some carbolic disinfectant



which had been placed in a saucer on the floor of a bedroom, and died.

#### General Medical Council Election.

Last Saturday the result of the voting for the election of three direct representatives on the General Medical Council was declared, so far as England and Wales is concerned, Drs. Rentoul (Liverpool), George Brown (London), and James G. Glover (London) being chosen. The poll was as follows:—Rentoul, Robert Reid, 6,646; Brown, George, 6,396; Glover, James Grey, 4,910; Jackson, George, 4,082; Drage, Lovell, 3,974; Woodcock, Samuel, 3,390; Rivington, Walter, 2,752; Alderson, Frederick Henry, 1,862; Dolan, Thomas Michael, 1,355; Diver, Ebenezer, 143. This is a victory for the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, which promoted the candidature of Drs. Rentoul, Brown, and Jackson. Dr. Glover was the only retiring member who sought re-election. Dr. Rentoul's qualifications cover the field, for he holds the Edinburgh "double qual," the M.R.C.S. Eng., and is M.D. of Queen's University, Ireland. He has ideas in regard to doctors dispensing and chemists prescribing which may find utterance at the horseshoe table in Oxford Street. Dr. Brown is editor of the *Medical Times*, and has gifts in the direction of detecting cases of infamous conduct in a professional sense. He does not love prescribing chemists overmuch.

Dr. William Bruce, of Dingwall, has been re-elected representative for Scotland, defeating Dr. Campbell Black by a large majority.

#### Accident to a Lady Chemist.

Miss Annie Tilson, chemist, Long Suttons, was mixing sulphuric acid and nitric acid in a 6-oz. bottle in her father's shop, and inadvertently corked the bottle before the expansion of the acids had subsided, causing the bottle to explode in her hands, and showering the acid over her face and neck. Although Miss Tilson's face was burnt, yet it is hoped that her eyes have not been injured, and that there will be no permanent disfigurement. The occurrence was witnessed by a customer, who was terribly frightened by the fumes of the acids, which filled the shop, and by the condition of Miss Tilson.

#### An Amateur Chemist's Death.

A young man named Munro Field, of Olney, who had attended technical education classes in chemistry, fitted up a cellar as a laboratory. Whilst carrying out experiments an explosion occurred, and he was subsequently found dead, having been poisoned by carbonic-acid gas.

#### A Chemist's Career.

The ubiquitous *Star* man tells a strange tale about one "Dr. Montague," alias Charles Grant (59), a gentlemanly-looking man, who is now in one of the metropolitan prisons charged with committing burglary. Grant, according to our contemporary, had a chemist's shop in Blackheath twenty years ago, and he combined pharmacy with the gentle art of crib-cracking. To all he was a simple chemist, but one fine day his other vocation became more pronounced than usual, and he was compelled to retire from business for five years. This was in 1880. When he came back to everyday life from the seclusion of Dartmoor, or similar salubrious retreat, he took a flat in Pimlico, where, as "Dr. Grant," he commenced medical practice, and as patients came none too quickly he revived his old methods of treatment by tapping many villas. Single-handed he succeeded in removing housefuls of furniture, even under the eyes of the police, who were deceived by his gentlemanly appearance and pleasant manners. To them he posed as landlord, or anything else which explained his strange conduct; but ultimately he got back to the Old Bailey, and another fifteen years' retirement was prescribed for him. He has been out on a ticket-of-leave for some time, and is supposed to have lived at Dalston, where he had an 85/- mansion on a three years' lease. Considering that he got the house without paying a deposit, we take this fact to be high proof of his genius, for Dalston landlords are not Simple Simons. He was now "Dr. Montague, analyst." He furnished the house with window-blinds and two gas-stoves, and is supposed to have been on the outlook for furniture when the

police got hold of him in respect to a little affair at St. John's Wood. The "doctor's" bag of instruments was found in the Dalston house; they comprised twenty-seven keys (not dental), a chisel, a screw-driver, three putty-knives (spatulas, surely), a steel wedge, a gimlet (for tracheotomy, doubtless), and a table-knife. One thing about the "doctor" which we admire is his love for books. On some of his late visits to suburban villas, he went to the library, and carefully went over the volumes, selecting only the best of them, and he had little difficulty in disposing of these at current prices to the best book-dealers. Altogether, the doctor is a pharmaceutical worthy of a unique type.

#### Aqua Flotists.

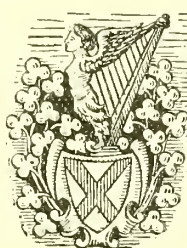
This is the name of a new remedy for the cares of life. The second dose was administered on Monday evening at the Masons' Hall, Coleman Street, Mr. R. Clay Sudlow acting as apothecary-in-chief. "Aqua Flotists" consists of the members of the Kepler Swimming Club in combination with soups, fyshe, joynts, poultries, vegetabils, sweetes, and, probably, other ingredients, for the last item in the recipe reads—

MASONSHALLPUDDINGCHEESECAKESMAIDSOPHONOURVICTOR  
IAPUDDINGEKEAPPLETARTMANGOLDWURZELSUGREE

As adjuncts, there were songs, rigmarole by the chief apothecary, tostes, &c.; and when the patients left the "etc." induced them to say, as Carlyle said to Tennyson, "This has been a grand nicht."

#### Bichromate for Bicarbonate.

A young married woman named Mary Butler, living in, Oakley Street, Crewe, had been suffering from neuralgia, and a Stockport relative sent her a prescription for it. On Thursday last her husband sent his apprentice to a chemist for twopennyworth of bicarbonate of potash. About 10 o'clock that evening his wife took a spoonful of it with a little tincture of colchicum. She became very ill, and died the next day. It was then found that she had taken bichromate, instead of bicarbonate, of potash. Albert Wilkinson said his master gave him a paper with the words written upon it, "Bicarbonate of potash." He went to Mr. Booth's, chemist, and asked for that. His assistant supplied it. He saw "bicarbonate of potash" written on the label. There was no poison-label on the packet. Butler said that he did not notice the label on the packet until after his wife had been taken seriously ill. The writing was then rather illegible, but, as far as he could make out, it was bicarbonate of potash. George Meeklewright, assistant to Mr. Booth, said the witness Wilkinson asked for bichromate of potash. He did not label it "Poison." It was not a scheduled poison. He did not ask what he wanted it for. The Coroner pointed out that the Act of Parliament required that all poisons sold should be labelled. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure, and the Coroner said he should communicate with the Pharmaceutical Society as to any further action that might be taken.



*Irish News*

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

#### A Drug-assistant in Trouble.

Last week, in the Cork Police Court, Michael D. O'Connor, who was charged with embezzling money from his employers, Messrs. Ryan & Co., druggists, Patrick Street, Cork, was put forward on remand. Mr. Ryan declined to prosecute, and the magistrate, who said the case was a most painful one, allowed the prisoner out on bail, himself in 40/-, and two others in 20/- each, to come up within three months if required on getting six days' notice.



**Personal.**

Mr. F. T. Parker, L.P.S.I., late of Messrs. Evans', Dawson Street, Dublin, has been appointed manager of Mr. W. A. Maxwell's Medical Hall, Sandycove, Dublin.

**How not to Collect a Subscription.**

Last week, in the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, in the case of the Irish Medical Association *v.* Roe, an application was made on behalf of the defendant to dismiss an action brought by the plaintiffs to recover from him three years' subscription to the Association, amounting to 1½ guinea. Counsel claimed that such a petty action should never have been brought into the Superior Court, and asked for an order similar to one made recently in the Exchequer Court, where, in an action brought to recover a small sum, the Court ordered that the solicitor who had issued the writ should pay the costs, in default of the plaintiff doing so. His Lordship dismissed the action with costs, but declined to make an order against the solicitor.

**Irish Poor-law Contracts.**

The Strabane Board of Guardians are going into the question of the tendering for supplies to the Union. The feeling, it is stated by Mr. Simons, a Guardian, exists that in the selection of samples the traders are not fairly dealt with, and that private marks appear on the samples which are known to certain Guardians. An inquiry into the whole system of tenders, samples, and contracts is to be held by a select committee of the Board, with the view of adopting some scheme for dealing with the contracts so that the Guardians will be placed above suspicion.

**Business Changes.**

The Medical Supply Association, Edinburgh, have taken over the premises of Messrs. Gibson, surgical-instrument makers, Dublin.

Messrs. John Clarke & Co. (Limited), chemists and druggists, Belfast, have opened a new warehouse and show-rooms in Victoria Street.

Mr. P. N. White's Medical Hall, at Sligo, has recently been much enlarged and beautified. It is now a very handsome pharmacy, both externally and internally. The floor is tessellated, and the shop is lighted with incandescent lights. A stairway leads from the pharmacy to the office, and the warerooms and manufacturing department at the back are now very extensive and commodious.

**Why?**

The Local Government Board not having yet confirmed the appointment of Mr. Acheson, chemist, as compounder to the Ballymena Union, the Guardians want to know the reason why.

**Stock Exchange Transactions.**

In the Queen's Bench Division, Dublin, before Mr. Justice Holmes and a jury, Messrs. Nish & Co., stock-brokers, London, sought to recover from Mr. Black, pharmaceutical chemist, Ballycastle, co. Antrim, 64*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, balance on stock transactions which had ranged over several months in the present year. The defendants disputed the claim on the ground that the dealings were in the nature of gambling. The Judge ruled that in point of law the evidence did not show the dealings to be gambling or unlawful ones, and, on taking an account, directed a verdict to be entered for the plaintiffs for 50*l.* and costs.

**The Doctor and the Nurse.**

The doctor and the nurse in the Armagh Workhouse are at discord. She, it is said, insists on managing the drugs and administering them without the doctor's orders, and he objects to her doing so. The case is being investigated by the Local Government Board.

**A Regiment of Inspectors.**

Professor Tichborne, pharmaceutical chemist, Dublin, examined forty candidates last week at the Constabulary Depot for the qualification of Inspector under the Food Adulteration Act.

**About Herbal Cigarettes.**

In the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin, last week, the Spanish Cigarette Company sued Messrs. David Galbraith & Co., wholesale druggists, Londonderry, for 39*l.* 16*s.* for certain herbal cigarettes, which were alleged to be an infallible cure for asthma. The defendants traversed the sale, and alleged that the cigarettes were not reasonably within the description. Defendants paid 21*l.* into Court, and counterclaimed 50*l.* for breach of warranty and false representation. The plaintiffs denied the defendants' claims. The Judge made an order charging the venue of the trial to Derry.

**January Pharmaceutical Examinations.**

The last days for receiving applications will be as follows: For the Preliminary examination, Monday, December 21; for the Pharmaceutical Assistants' examination, Monday, December 23; for the Registered Druggist examination (at both Belfast and Dublin), Tuesday, December 29; for the Pharmaceutical Licence examination, Wednesday, December 30.



*Scotch News*

*The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.*

**Gaiety in Glasgow.**

On the evening of December 9 the employees of Messrs. Cockburn & Co., Glasgow, held their annual festival in the Cockburn Hotel. There were about seventy of them, and they danced from 8 P.M. until 10 P.M. and then sat down to supper, Mr. C. T. Cockburn, the head of the firm, occupying the chair. Speeches complimenting the firm, the ladies, the guests, the medical profession, and the former assistants followed; and then dancing, interspersed with music and song, was kept up with much spirit until 2 A.M.

**Dispute about a Chemist's Business.**

In the Court of Session, on Saturday last, Lord Kyllachy decided an action in which John Murray Wilson, accountant, Glasgow, and others, as trustees of the late Wm. Fulton Young, chemist and druggist, in Kilmarnock, sought to have Thomas Young, the father of the deceased, ordained to produce an account of his intromissions with the business since the death of his son in January last, or pay to them 750*l.* The business, which was carried on in King Street, Kilmarnock, plaintiffs said was an extensive and profitable one, and they averred that the defendant, immediately after the sudden death of his son, illegally took possession of the shop, stock-in-trade, &c., and ordered the plaintiffs to remove from it at Whitsun Day last. The deceased, who left a wife and two young children, had executed a trust disposition, conveying his whole estate to the plaintiffs as trustees. The defendant said that for upwards of forty years he had carried on the business referred to, and in June, 1889, he gratuitously made it over to the deceased, who executed a deed of renunciation, in which he accepted the business in full satisfaction of his share in his father's estate, but the defendant continued to attend in the shop, and gave his time and attention to the business as he had previously done, receiving no remuneration for his services. The deceased was married in June, 1892, to a sister of the plaintiff John Murray Wilson, but the parties proved unsuited to each other. The deceased fell into irregular habits, and was frequently absent from the business for days and weeks at a time. He lived separate from his wife after April, 1895, and with the defendant. In June following his wife raised an action of separation and aliment against him in the Court of Session, but ultimately the case was settled extra-judicially. On November 27, 1895, the



deceased wrote and delivered to the defendant a holograph letter, by which he relinquished his interest in the business to his father "for debts incurred by me towards you," and agreed to hand over the same to the defendant "for payment of aforesaid debt." Lord Kyllachy said the issue of the case was whether the letter of November 27, 1895, was delivered by the deceased to the defendant. It was not disputed that the letter was in the handwriting of the deceased, and if a delivered document it was a conclusive answer to this action. But the plaintiffs did dispute the delivery, and their counsel made a strenuous effort to discredit the testimony of the defendant. In a case like this delivery required to be proved. It was not enough that the letter was in the possession of the defendant, and was produced by him, because it was possible that the deceased, after writing and addressing the letter, might have changed his mind, and that the defendant, in whose house the deceased lived, might have simply found the letter in his son's depositories. The defendant swore that his son handed him the letter, and did so for no collateral purpose, but for the purpose which the letter expressed. His Lordship came to the conclusion that whether or not accurate in all details, the defendant was telling the truth. He therefore assoziated the defendant from the conclusions of the action. With regard to expenses, he said the defendant must have his expenses on the footing that only one day's proof was allowed.

#### Mineral Oils.

Dr. Stevenson Macadam delivered, before the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Edinburgh, on Monday evening, the same lecture on safe and unsafe mineral oils which he delivered in Manchester last week.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**STERILISED MILK.**—A committee of the Paris Municipal Council recommends that the Council should appoint a Commission to consider the distribution of sterilised milk. Amongst the proposed members of this Commission are Dr. Bux, M. Ch. Girard, Director of the Paris Municipal Laboratory, and Dr. Duc'aux, Director of the Pasteur Institute.

**PARIS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY.**—At the Annual Session of the Council of the Paris Academy held recently, the following information was given regarding the last term of the Paris Superior School of Pharmacy. The number of students was 1869, being 67 more than the previous year. There were 1,234 candidates for the first-class diploma and 585 for that of the second class. The School considers that the latter class of pharmacist should be suppressed, and it is remarked with regret that the students for this diploma appear to increase, while those for the first class tend to decrease. One lady-candidate competed for the higher degree, and six for the other. There were twenty-seven foreign students. For the 1894-95 term 323 students inscribed their names, while the number for 1895-96 reached 341. The diploma of pharmacien was awarded to 234 candidates, being an increase of 54 over the previous year, and the directors of the School say they cannot regard without some misgivings this large number entering on a career already over-stocked, and which has become difficult to exercise. Examinations of all kinds, to the number of 2,383, were held in the school, being 274 in advance of the previous year. This is an improvement in all the various branches except for herbalists, which shows a decrease. The directors do not consider this a cause for regret, as the inspectors of herbalists' shops find that inferior, and sometimes even dangerous, drugs are sold there. As regards the school library, an attendance of 18,307 was shown, as against a previous highest of 15,000; of these, 4,342 were counted on evenings.

**THE USE OF PICRIC ACID.**—The discovery of Dr. Thierry, of the Paris Charity Hospital, last year that picric acid was an excellent application for burns (*C. & D.* August 31, 1895) has led to its use in a number of French factories, in many of which may now be found a cask of water saturated with picric acid. The French Minister of War has also taken the

matter in hand and has issued instructions for the use of the saturated solution. "The efficacy of this liquid," says the circular, "is shown by the indefinite preservation of anatomical pieces. Recent experiments also prove that it has a real analgesic action and assists in rapidly healing burns. Army surgeons are asked to examine the cure of injuries due to burns and to report their observations." In an interview on the subject Dr. Thierry said the coloration of the hands of practitioners who use the solution is an inconvenience which has yet to be overcome. In very serious burns he now uses the picric acid with ether or alcohol instead of water. By this means he has obtained a more rapid action and consequently more speedy relief and cure.

**CHARITABLE COMPETITORS.**—Sisters of Charity frequently have a small pharmacy attached to their convents and supply drugs free of charge to the poor. Pharmacists in the provinces feel the effects of this competition severely. The following extract from the *Courrier* of Saumur shows how these religious pharmacies are regarded in certain quarters, though it is probable that the statements are somewhat exaggerated:—"There is scarcely a religious congregation in country districts which does not carry on the commerce of pharmacy openly and with impunity. No doubt the pharmacists affected can prosecute the offenders, but they hardly dare do so, as the clerical party would organise a boycott against them and bring about their ruin. They would risk losing their case, and would certainly be held up as tradesmen prosecuting, from a spirit of lucre, saintly women who are only violating the law from a sentiment of humanity." &c. The writer goes on to speak of the anti-cholera scapulars on which an image of the Virgin Mary is embroidered, and which, being blessed by the Pope, have the virtue of protecting the faithful against all affections of a choleraic nature; they are sold at 4f. 50c. (3s. 8d.) each and hang from the neck of the wearer. The peasants form the major part of the *clientèle*.

**THE NEW PHARMACY BILL.**—The text of the new Pharmacy Bill as passed by the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has just been published. Dr. Maurice Bourillon, Secretary to the Committee, in his summary of the measure, states that it is proposed to abolish the diploma of "pharmacist of the second class." Care has also been taken to remove from the Bill everything tending to give pharmacy too pronounced a commercial character. The Committee see, in the extreme commercial development of certain pharmacies, a danger that calls for suppression. They think that patients should be encouraged to deal with *bona-fide* pharmacists rather than with big shops of the store character. They think that, in order to secure to the small pharmacist an honourable and sufficiently remunerative existence, he must be protected against the crushing competition of large financial organisations, and they introduce clauses in accordance with that view. Pharmaceutical partnerships are to be illegal unless all the partners are properly qualified pharmacists. The *officine* itself must be managed by full partners. Every manufactory of pharmaceutical goods must be managed by a qualified pharmacien, and at least one of the partners in the firm must be so qualified. The wholesale trade in simple crude drugs is exempt from this condition. The new Bill stipulates that a pharmacist possessing a foreign diploma cannot commence business in France unless he has previously obtained the French diploma of pharmacist. But no foreigner, although holding the French diploma, will be allowed to practice pharmacy in France unless reciprocity on similar terms exists with his own country. Foreign students must follow exactly the same course of study and pass the same examinations as Frenchmen. A special diploma may be obtained by foreign students which will not confer on them the right to practice pharmacy in French territory. Certain facilities will, however, be given to foreigners who wish to obtain this last-named diploma, such as the acceptance of certificates of Preliminary examinations from their own country as equivalent for those passed in France, the object being to make the period during which foreigners have to reside in France as short as possible.

**THE ANNUAL DINNER** of the Syndicate of Pharmacists of the Seine took place on Monday evening, December 14, at Marguery's Restaurant. About seventy pharmacists sat down, the chair being occupied by M. Riethé, who was very



optimistic. The new Pharmacy Bill, he said, would probably prove more favourable than they had dared to hope. The delegates of the General Association of French Pharmacists had agreed with the manufacturers of pharmaceutical specialities upon an anti-cutting scheme, to be put in operation early in 1897. M. César Duval, a pharmacien Deputy, and a member of the Committee on the Pharmacy Bill, confirmed M. Rieth's views of that measure. A concert, arranged by M. Faure, a musical member of the Syndicate, followed the dinner, which passed off very successfully.

**PHARMACEUTICAL ASSURANCE.**—The new pharmaceutical Mutual Help Society has decided to devote itself not only to mutual assurance, but also to create a small fund to be divided amongst the members every ten years. A proposal to create a life-annuity fund was found to be, for the present, unworkable.

## Foreign and Colonial News.

**QUACKERY IN GERMANY.**—A singular criminal case has just been heard by the Düsseldorf Court, in which a qualified medical man, Dr. Vollbeding, and two of his assistants were prosecuted by the authorities for swindling, the first named defendant being also charged with contributory manslaughter. Dr. Vollbeding some years ago set up in Düsseldorf, in company with a woman named Collin, and almost immediately secured a large number of patients. He pretended to be the inventor of a system of medicine by which every disease afflicting mankind could be cured by a comparative small number of remedies. His chief nostrum was one he called "Unispi," the composition of which does not appear to have been made known in the course of the lawsuit. Besides "Unispi" Vollbeding employed a series of twelve tinctures for external and five powders for internal use. He made it a practice to induce people who had been, or believed they had been, cured by him, to give him testimonials for publication, and for several years he advertised such testimonials in local journals throughout Germany. Some time ago the authorities attempted to put a stop to his proceedings, but it was found that they could only compel him to establish a proper pharmacy, which he did; but this appears to have been a blind, inasmuch as the sale and manufacture of "Unispi" and other preparations was continued on a larger scale than ever. Since the rise of his reputation Vollbeding himself did not attend to any cases. He left not only the treatment of his patients but the compounding of the medicines and the choice of the drugs to his assistants, who were men without any medical or pharmaceutical training whatever. It is said that during the last few years Vollbeding spent 60,000*l.* a year on advertising, and that his income ran from 21,000*l.* to 23,000*l.* a year, while the number of letters was so great that, although his entire staff was kept from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. in dealing with the correspondence, it often happened that a thousand letters were left unanswered for several days. Vollbeding was brought to justice by the fact that the death of a youth was medically certified to have been accelerated by his treatment. He was sentenced to four years and one month's imprisonment, 150*l.* fine, and the loss of civic rights for five years. His two chief assistants received respectively six and two months' imprisonment.

**BRITISH v. FOREIGN BUSINESS METHODS.**—The importation of British goods into the Canary Islands would, in the British Consul's opinion, be much increased if British manufacturers would get more directly in touch with the buyers there. The quotations and measures should be in local currency: French and German houses so give them. The German merchants nearly always quote f.o.b. at Hamburg, Bremen, or Rotterdam, and the French at Havre, Bordeaux, or Marseilles, or else free delivered at Tenerife; and the samples usually state weight and measure ment packed, and cost of packing in other cases, besides which, correspondence with France and Germany is invariably sent in the Spanish language, a practice followed also by foreign firms established in Great Britain, to the injury of genuine British houses, who seem to take a delight in avoiding every means to facilitate business. For these reasons, a

large share of the European trade with the Canary Islands is finding its way to the Continent.

**THE GERMAN COAL-TAR COLOUR TRADE.**—Although the aniline industry originated in Britain, and was at first carried on almost exclusively in this country and in France, the development of the German coal-tar colour industry has been greater than that of any other country. This is shown by the following export figures of German aniline dyes:—

	1890	1890	1895
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Alizarin .. ..	5,880	7,900	8,928
Aniline oil and salts	—	3,800	7,280
Aniline and tar ..	8,928	7,135	15,489

**TRY THE MEXICAN MARKET.**—The imports of chemical products, among which are included paints, into Mexico show a larger proportionate increase in 1895 as compared with 1894 than any other group of articles, the value returned being 304,000*l.* as against 227,000*l.*, a rise of 31 per cent. Unfortunately in this trade Britain has only a very small share, under 10 per cent. The United States supply nearly one-half, and the remainder is furnished by France, and, in a less degree, by Germany. The smallness of the British share is attributed by our Consul to the absence of English mercantile establishments in Mexico, which makes English goods wholly dependent for their sale on French or German firms. Commercial travellers have no means of reaching consumers, except through dealers, and when they try to introduce novelties they are usually met with the answer that such articles are unknown in the market and that there is no demand for them. The Consul is therefore of opinion that there is no prospect for English trade in Mexico, except through the medium of English mercantile agencies. The success which has attended the opening of such agencies in Mexico by two English manufacturers of sewing-thread, the imports of which article have consequently increased in ten years from 65,000*l.* to 130,000*l.*, shows what might be done by the same means in other branches of trade.

## Australasian News.

THE following notes are mainly based upon information contained in the November issue of *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*, published at Melbourne. Copies of that paper (price 6*d.* each) and information concerning it may be had upon application to the Publisher, C. & D. of Australasia, 42 Cannon Street, E.C.

**N.S.W. PHARMACY BILL.**—The new Pharmacy Bill for New South Wales introduced by the Premier, Mr. Robert Reid, passed its third reading in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly on October 21.

**GOOD NEWS FOR SHEEP-DIPS.**—The Bill to amend the Stock Act of 1889 now before the Tasmanian Legislature requires all sheep to be dipped after shearing by thorough immersion "in some reputed effective tick-destroying preparation." The owner must inform the Chief Inspector immediately this has been done. The suggestion has been made that the Government should make trials of the comparative merits of the dips now in use. It is said that this would require a paddock capable of grazing 2,000 sheep for the whole twelve months, to be subdivided into smaller paddocks for confining the sheep treated with each particular dip.

**RETAILING BY WHOLESALE FIRMS IN QUEENSLAND.**—The wholesale and retail chemists of Brisbane met together on October 14, to consider the practice, stated to be widely prevalent, of wholesale firms selling goods to the public in retail quantities. After a prolonged discussion all the wholesale firms present disclaimed any intention of interfering with the retail trade, and promised to stop transactions of the nature complained of. The retailers are to keep a record of any such cases that may in future be brought to their notice, and the parties will meet again in six months' time to consider complaints that may then have arisen.



**FRAUDULENT IMITATION OF BRITISH TRADE MARKS.**—A writer on the *Sydney Bulletin* has investigated the question of fraudulent imitations of British goods on the Australian markets. In the issue of the *Bulletin* of October 3, he draws a glaring picture of the unblossing manner in which spurious goods of this kind are sold. Here are some of his statements:—

You can go into Sydney stores and buy Worcester sauce with an almost exact reproduction of an English label, and bearing a London address, for 3/1. to 3 1/2. a bottle. It is made by a Hindoo in Surrey Hills, N.S. Wales. Sauces in the same sized bottles from well-known standard makers cannot be sold under 1s. to 1s. 3/4. If you ask for English pickles, they will give you for 5/1. or 6/1. a bottle of pickles bearing an English or London address, with labels the same colour, design, size, and wording as those of leading English manufacturers, whose goods cannot be sold in Sydney under 10/1. to 1s. respectively. The cheap lines are put up by a black man in a filthy stable, and the conditions of manufacture beggar description. The writer has collected about eighty samples of bogus goods. The very cheap lines, the ghastly mystery-goods, appear mostly to come from yellow, brown, and black men, but white people are by no means guiltless. The senior partner in a leading Sydney firm offered to sell fifty cases of goods at a price, and put any name that was wanted on them. When told that they would have to bear an English address, he replied, "It doesn't matter. You can design the label yourself and we will put it on. Any name you like."

Our Australian journal, in commenting upon these statements, points out that the Trade-marks Act of 1868 only provides the inadequate penalty of 10s. for infringement of trade-marks, and a maximum penalty of 5/ for fraud. The Act is quite obsolete, and there is no other protection in the colony against malpractices like those described. The evil is not limited to the provision-trade. "Nimrod's cure," purporting to be made by the Central Drug-store, New York, but really made in Sydney, is openly sold in the colony.

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN CHEMICALS IN TASMANIA**—The Hon. Sir P. O. Fysh, in a Parliamentary paper prepared for the Premier of Tasmania as a reply to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch on trade with the colonies, makes some singular statements. He says:—"The falling-off in the British export trade is due to the fact that continental houses are addressing themselves more and more directly to the retail than the wholesale. In the matter of fine chemicals, their goods are at least 25 per cent. cheaper than the British manufactured article, and for purity they stand the severest tests, while for get-up and general appearance they are far in advance of the British. As a further reason the continental houses were at one time content to manufacture chemicals only, but now they are competing buyers in London drug-sales for original parcels and shipments, and they are satisfied to list them at a much smaller profit than the old-time conservative British druggist." The Hobart correspondent of our Australian journal takes Sir P. O. Fysh to task for some of these statements, and states that in Tasmania British goods hold their own, and buyers prefer good English brands to any foreign. Sir Philip Fysh's remarks about the competition of continental buyers in the London drug-sales are ridiculous. Ever since drug-sales have been held in London a large proportion of the goods offered there have been bought for export to the Continent. Certainly the competition of continental buyers at those sales dates back to several generations before the establishment of any organised chemical industry abroad. It is also generally thought that the quantity of goods bought at the London auctions by foreign competitors of ours is diminishing rather than increasing. It is to be hoped that the average quality of the information given to Mr. Chamberlain will be more accurate than the specimen we have quoted.

## Novelties.

### A SUBSTITUTE FOR TARTARIC ACID.

At a recent meeting of the Liverpool Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. Douglas Herman, F.I.C., communicated a note on a substitute for tartaric acid in the preparation of effervescent beverages, the substitute referred to

being an alkali bisulphate in the form of fused cakes, and manufactured specially for use in gazogenes. The idea of employing a bisulphate for the liberation of carbonic acid from carbonates is not new, but there were several practical difficulties in its application to gazogenes which had only recently been surmounted, he said. In the particular form which he exhibited, the difficulties were not only overcome but some solid advantages were obtained. The cakes pass easily into the gazogene. The solid blocks present less surface to the solvent action of the water than small crystals of tartaric acid; hence the evolution of carbonic acid is more gradual and uniform, ensuring better aëration of the water, and instead of adopting the precaution commonly recommended with tartaric-acid charges, of drawing off half a tumblerful within five minutes of charging, after charging the gazogene can be left entirely to itself. Although the evolution of carbonic acid from the bisulphate charges is more gradual than from tartaric-acid charges, aëration is complete quite as soon. The proportions of acid and bicarbonate are so adjusted that the solution in the top globe is always faintly alkaline.

We have received a package of the charges as turned out by the Seltzogene Patent Charges Company, St. Helens. They are put up in packages of a dozen charges. Those for the 5-pint gazogene consist of oblong packets of tinfoil paper, 4 inches by 1 inch by 1 inch, each containing a packet of sodium bicarbonate, and a lead packet, sealed at the ends with paraffin, holding six of the blocks of bisulphate. We do not know the difference in the price of these charges and the old ones, but, independent of the saving, the special advantages referred to by Mr. Herman in themselves warrant a trial of the new charges. We presume that the company will also be able to supply the cakes in suitable sizes for the Nauheim treatment.

### NEW TABLOIDS.

MESSRS. BURROUGHS, WELLCOME & Co. send us a sample of a new tabloid, compounded according to the following prescription:—

Ext. cascara sagrada	..	..	..	..	gr. ij.
Ext. nucis vomice	..	..	..	..	gr. i.
Ext. belladonnæ	..	..	..	..	gr. 1/2
Pulv. capsici	..	..	..	..	gr. ss.

The combination is an excellent one, for cascara sagrada is not exactly an ideal purgative, being more of a regulator; but in the above combination we have an effective aperient which acts within eight hours, and the regulating nature of the medicine remains. The tabloids are especially intended for administration in cases of intestinal torpidity, and are sent out sugar-coated in bottles of 25 and 100.

Early last year we called attention to Residuum Rubrum tabloids, which represent the colouring principles of the blood in a compressed form. This week we have received from Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. two kinds of tabloids, prepared respectively from the red residues of venous and arterial blood. A Liverpool physician reports upon the beneficial results of his trials of this drug in a series of cases of osteo-arthritis treated during a period of more than eighteen months. After the usual treatment had proved ineffectual, Residuum Rubrum tabloids, prepared from venous blood, were administered in several cases with beneficial effect. They were given at the rate of twelve 5-gr. tabloids during the twenty-four hours. The tabloids made from the residue of arterial blood are now being tried, and we await the results with interest, for it will be a notable thing if the fully oxygenated and fully carbonated hæmoglobin are found to differ therapeutically.



## The Winter Session.

### WESTERN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held at the Westbourne Restaurant, on December 16, the newly-elected President (Mr. J. W. Taplin) delivered a short introductory address. About forty members were present. Prior to this a committee meeting was held, which showed that the accounts were satisfactory, there being a balance in hand of £17. 15s. 3d.

In the course of his address the PRESIDENT referred to the good work done by the Association. The papers read, and the discussions which followed, had given valuable information to the trade generally. Incidentally he mentioned that they were steering their course independently of that august body the Pharmaceutical Society. It was a question for their Association whether it would be politic for their members to join an insurance office which had been brought to their notice, in view of dispensing errors. Reference was next made to pharmaceutical preparations, many of which they would like to improve, and any suggestions bearing on this subject would be acceptable. The speaker commended the paper on "Dispensing Charges," by Mr. Darton Gibbs, of the Midland Chemists' Association, which contained many valuable suggestions (*C. & D.*, October 24, 1896). On the subject of shorter hours for chemists' assistants, the President said it was the tendency of the age that assistants should have more leisure. This could be effected by earlier closing, and chemists in their respective districts should come to some arrangement whereby that could be carried out. He supported the suggestion of allowing Minor men to be eligible for election to the Pharmaceutical Council, and, in conclusion, urged the members to do their best in an unobtrusive way to convince the public that the chemist was the man they should look to for their medicines. A vote of thanks to Mr. Taplin for his address was moved by Mr. HYSLOP, and seconded by Mr. MARTINDALE, and, in the course of some general discussion,

Mr. MARSH threw out a suggestion that they should communicate with the Chemists' Assistants' Association regarding the question of supplying the vacancies in stores and company-pharmacies. He thought an expression of opinion from them would carry weight with the rising generation. If chemists could see their way to give their assistants a little more leisure it would be a great help towards closing the stores.

The question of the sale of arsenical soap also came up. Mr. TAPLIN mentioning that he had received a summons to appear at the Richmond Court on Thursday for selling this, and Mr. MARTINDALE stated that he had received an inquiry by post for the soap, but, as he could not obtain the signature of the purchaser, he wrote back to say they could not supply it.

### ABERDEEN JUNIOR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

At their weekly meeting held on Friday evening last week Mr. T. S. MURRAY, D.Sc., delivered a lecture on "Glass." He described the stages of manufacture, from the fusing of the silica and alkali, &c., until it is obtained as bottles, &c. Different kinds of glass were chemically discussed, and the methods of colouring glass were described. The lecturer afterwards gave a practical demonstration of glass blowing and spicing.

At a meeting of the Senior Chemists' Association held on Wednesday, December 9, the following gentlemen were appointed to meet a special committee from the Junior Association to arrange about the social gathering to be held in January, 1897—viz., Messrs J. Clark Craig, and J. Cruickshank. The committee of the Junior Association consists of Messrs. R. Leslie, W. Bremner, and C. Philip.

### BRIGHTON JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY.

At the meeting on December 9, Mr. G. F. LEMMON delivered a lecture, with lantern illustrations, on the subject of "Comets and Meteors." After the lecture, the death of Mr. Marshall Leigh was intimated. A vote of condolence was accorded by the members to Mrs. Leigh.

### CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting at 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., on Thursday evening, December 10, was devoted to a paper on "The Foundation of Chemistry as a Quantitative Science," by Mr. C. A. HILL, A.I.C., F.C.S. It is difficult for those who are brought up in modern chemistry to imagine that there was a time when the quantitative idea never crossed the minds of chemists. It was the purpose of the essayist to show the origin of modern conceptions, and to do that he went back to the time when alchemists were struggling with "essences" and "principles," which they considered to be imponderable, and to give substances their characteristics. Boyle appears to have been the first to observe that when metals were calcined in air the weight of the calx was greater than that of the metal taken, and Mayow at the same time recognised that there was something in the air whose absorption or combination with the metal accounted for the increased weight. This was towards the end of the seventeenth century, and the chemists who immediately followed Boyle and Mayow did not appreciate the importance of their observations; so they struggled along with the phlogiston and other principles until Black, Cavendish, Priestley, and Lavoisier conclusively established by their quantitative experiments the present foundation of chemistry as a science. Mr. Hill gave a lucid description of the labours of these men and of others whose work led up to or finished their conclusions, the researches of Berthollet and Dalton being chiefly dealt with in the latter part.

Mr. C. MORLEY (President) briefly commented upon the paper, expressing the pleasure which it had given the members, and Dr. H. A. D. JOWETT also spoke, deprecating the acceptance of generalisations in science as laws.

### HALIFAX AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this Association followed a dinner held on December 9 at the Old Cock Hotel, Halifax. Mr. J. B. Brierley (the President of the Society) occupied the chair, and Councillor Hebden was in the vice-chair.

In reply to the toast of "The Association," proposed by Mr. CLEMENT FIELDING, the PRESIDENT gave some details of their history. They started, he said, in a very humble way in the room behind Councillor Hebden's shop. The Pharmacy Act having become law, they were largely concerned with the details and interpretation of it. They established educational classes and a library. They all hoped that the Pharmacy Act would be of great advantage to them; how far their hopes had been realised they all knew. The development of company pharmacy having completely upset all their calculations, the question was: How can the condition of the future chemist be ameliorated or improved? That seemed to him to be a subject that could very well occupy the attention of their members during the coming year. Associations similar to that could be of immense use in strengthening the hands of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association if they acted upon the lines of the Plymouth chemists, and gave the makers of all proprietary articles plainly to understand that they were weary of helping them to pile up their thousands, and even millions, without any profit to themselves. Another movement which had its origin in Birmingham was of great use in its day and generation—viz., the Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association. This body did most excellent work in many different ways, but especially so in the contention with the Society of Apothecaries as to the right which chemists had always exercised of prescribing for simple ailments, and the decision of the Law Courts in Shepperley's case clearly defined their position in that old and profitable branch of their business.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that Mr. Herbert W. Seely, their courteous and energetic Secretary, was unable to attend that evening owing to his recent severe indisposition.

Mr. MCCONNELL then proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," for which Mr. SWIRE responded. After this, several topics of trade interest were discussed. On the Christmas holiday question, it was decided to open on Boxing Day at 2 P.M. for the rest of the day. It was next resolved that meetings of the Association should be held quarterly. The question of the representation of chemists on the Chamber of Commerce was then mentioned.



The toasts of "The Corporation of Halifax," proposed by Mr. FARR, and replied to by Councillor HEDDEN, and "The Officers of the Association," proposed by Mr. THOMPSON, and responded to by Mr. BRIGGS, having been honoured, Mr. COBB proposed "The Proprietary Articles Trade Association." He was very complementary to the Association and to its Secretary, Mr. Glyn-Jones, and said he would like it to go up to the Association that they would back them up and stick to the prices the Association asked them to do. A special toast was finally drunk to the better health of their Secretary, Mr. Seely.

#### LIVERPOOL PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

At the meeting on December 10, Mr. J. Jones (President) in the chair, there was a good attendance. Amongst the miscellaneous communications, Mr. Prosper H. Marsden exhibited some fine specimens of bael-fruit, Mr. Wyatt some Peruvian maize, remarkable for its large size, the seeds being 2 inch long; also some galls from Japan, which were strikingly like the Chinese variety, but were more pubescent.

Mr. R. H. MITCHELL said he had had a dispute during the week as to whether "flowers of sulphur" or "flour of sulphur" is correct.

The PRESIDENT said he thought this subject had been thoroughly threshed out, but he would put it to the vote. This was done, with a unanimous decision in favour of "flowers of sulphur."

Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN then read a paper on

#### PLANT-FERTILISATION.

In this essay the writer referred chiefly to the work of Darwin, Müller, and others upon the methods whereby the pollen-grains are conveyed to the pistil, and the changes which occur in the flower when fertilisation takes place. Typical examples of flowers were described, and illustrated by means of lantern-pictures, &c., and the various technical terms used to describe the parts and processes were explained, the immediate result of the essay being that Mr. Marsden gave his audience in less than an hour what it would take them weeks of hard reading to get up. The essay, being purely educative, is not adapted for reproduction in these pages, but the following passages will appeal to all lovers of nature, and show the essayist's style:—

Our evening primrose, *Oenothera biennis*, is a curiosity of fertilisation. Its flowers are not opened in the twilight for mere amusement. Upon examining them it will be almost invariably found that the buds ready to flower, which open at the close of day, have adapted themselves particularly to suit the visits of evening and night-flying insects. The beautiful expectancy of the flower determines the duration of its bloom. Thus, in the event of rain or other cause preventing insect visits at night, the evening primrose will remain open for the butterflies the following day, when otherwise it would have drooped perceptibly, and extended but a listless welcome to its many-coloured visitor. Browning has feelingly interpreted the tender allegory of the evening primrose in the lines beginning:—

The moth's kiss first!  
Kiss me as if you make believe  
You were not sure this eve  
How my face, your flower, had pursed  
Its petals up.

Let us turn our attention to any tuft of evening primroses at nightfall. If we watch carefully we see the green apex burst asunder with an audible movement, and the four-freel sepals slowly reflex against the hollow tube of the flower, while the lustrous corolla shakes out its folds. The slender stamens are now seen, with festoons of webby pollen across their tips. It is none too soon, for a silvery moth becomes attracted to the bloom, and, after contentedly sipping the nectar, carries away a golden necklace of pollen, therewith to fertilise other flowers, directed in his rounds by the deepest of Nature's designs, and labouring, all unconscious, to provide a supply of primroses destined to feed future nectar-sippers like himself.

A good discussion followed, in which Messrs. WYATT, WALKER, COWLEY, COCKSHOTT, WARDLEWORTH, and the PRESIDENT took part.

## Trade-Marks Applied for.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 25, 1896.)

"WAHINE"; for an internal medicine for human use. By Oppenheimer, Son & Co. (Limited), 14 Worship Street, London, E.C. 198,305.

"GASTIL"; for cough-medicine for man. By S. Brown, 8 Blackfriars Road, London, druggists' sundriesman. 198,541.

Combination of devices on label; for coca-wine tonic. By J. F. Timms & Co., 40 Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London, E.C. 197,731. Essential particular: combination of devices.

"NURONA"; for perfumery, including toilet articles, soap, &c. By J. Woolley, Sons & Co. (Limited), 12 Victoria Bridge Street, Salford, Manchester. 198,894.

Device of stile, and wording "Gossage's Olde Style Pale"; for perfumed soap. By W. Gossage & Sons (Limited), Widnes, Lancs, soap manufacturers. 197,973. Essential particular: the device.

Coat of arms consisting of deer, wreath, cross, &c.; for chemical substances, &c. By the Actien Gesellschaft Georg Egestorff's Salzwerte, Linden, near Hannover, Germany. 197,518.

Device of branch of rose-tree and signature of applicant; for medicines for human use. By F. Carter, 3 Queen's Road, Peckham, London, S.E., herbalist. 197,985.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," December 2, 1896)

The word "CRIDO" written in the form of a cross in diamond-shaped design; for an embrocation for veterinary and human use. By G. Baines, trading as the Crido Company, 29 The Drive, Thornton Heath, Surrey, clerk. 198,464-5.

"ZOMO"; for a veterinary preparation. By Day & Sons, Animal-medicine Works, Crewe, Cheshire. 199,372.

"VIDACE"; for chemical substances prepared for use in medicine and pharmacy. By the Victoria Date Company (Limited), Victoria Works, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, London. 197,573.

Figure of crocodile; for hair-combs. By O. W. Obrecht, Münliswyl, Canton Solothurn, Switzerland. 196,969.

"THE DAISY, THE PANSY," and combination of devices; for hair-combs. By the Rosemount Comb Manufacturing Company (Limited), Aberdeen. 198,366-7. Essential particulars, devices and word "Pansy."

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," December 9, 1896.)

"KATHERINE"; for a medicine for the cure of coughs, colds, &c. By the Nurse Katherine Remedy Company, Norwood House, Ferrybridge, Yorks. 198,781.

Label device of table and salt-cellar, with wording: "For table-salt." By W. Fletcher & Son, The Salteries, 3 Wharf Street, Shipley, wholesale druggists. 193,897. Essential particular: the device.

"KERO"; for a meat-extract. By Bouillon Fleet (Limited), 103C Warner Road, Camberwell, London, S.E. 199,197.

"ABBIEZAIN"; for an aerated beverage. By Clayton & Jowett, 3 Concert Street, Liverpool. 198,707.

Facsimile signature of applicant; for mineral and aerated waters, including ginger-beer. By W. Coutts, 62 Queen Street, Aberdeen. 199,501.

"COQUETTE"; for perfumed soap. By J. Crossfield & Sons (Limited), Bank Quay, Warrington. 199,120.

Facsimile signature of applicant on plain label; for a preparation for the hair. By Geo. R. Sims, 12 Clarence Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W., journalist. 199,152. Essential particular: facsimile signature.

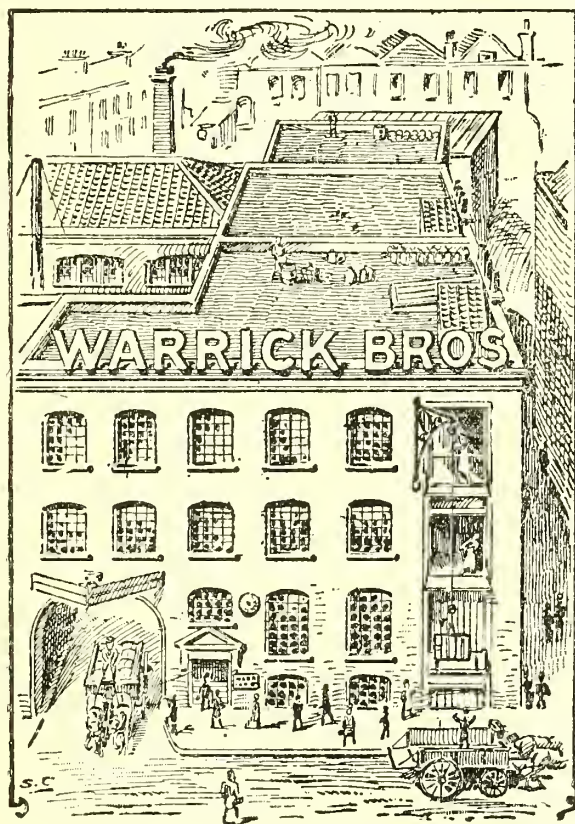
Label device with sketch of two children, and wording "The Celebrated Paraguayan Hair Restorer," &c. By Lopez & Co., 79 Drayton Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W., manufacturers. 197,031. Essential particular: the device.



## Our Town Traveller.

### A MOVE UPWARDS AND WESTWARDS.

SINCE the days of John Warrick, and in his day, Old Swan Lane was one of the most odorous—delightfully odorous—spots between London Bridge and Blackfriars, for it was there that WARRICK BROTHERS had their premises, and all the perfumes of Araby were not sweeter than the breath that came out of their door when you opened it. Alas! for Old Swan Lane; its perfume is quite another story now, for the Brothers have gone west to Portpool Lane, off Gray's Inn Road—one of those backwaters of London's stream of life, where the hatching is done. Strangers say that London does not make things, because they do not go down the Portpool Lanes of the great city. Were they to do that, they would find big factories and industries they had never heard of before. It was as a stranger that I called at No. 7 the other evening, and Mr. F. W. Warrick was good enough to take me over the place. It took us an hour, which is the



quickest way of telling how big it is; for we did not waste time, and there are too many clever and secret things about to allow a stranger to linger long in any one spot. My inventory is as follows:—The building consists of four floors and a basement, and is divided by a party-wall into two parts, the front one being devoted to the storage, packing, and distribution of goods, the back part to their manufacture or production. The offices are spacious and light, the warehouses ample and well stocked, and the workshops equipped with ingenious machinery. If I were the compiler of one of those curious books which describe a town's industries at the rate of a column per hundred copies of the book, I would need to proceed in that style; but as I am a humble Town Traveller, I must adopt a more lowly style. So, in modest language let me say that for some years Warrick Brothers have found their perfume-business rivalled by a growing trade in lozenges, gelatine capsules, jelloids, and other pharmaceutical specialities. They had overflowed into a small factory behind the C. & D. offices, and an op-

portunity for concentration presenting itself last May, they took it and went to Portpool Lane. The party-wall was the first achievement; then Mr. Warrick (who was born an engineer and was made a pharmacist) began to plan the mechanical arrangements. He put a boiler in the basement (tested to 100 lbs. pressure to the square inch), built an iron chimney for it, and jacketed the chimney with sheet-iron, an air space between, thus securing by one arrangement a perfectly cool boiler-house, and abundant supplies of steam and hot air—the last for nothing. The hot air is for the drying rooms, whence it is carried by the draught of a patent fan. The position of the drying-rooms and their internal fitting required a lot of scheming, I imagine, because they look so compact and as if they had grown for the specific uses to which they are put. But I am anticipating. First, we went into the steam-pan room, where “boilings” and the jujube-basis are made. Some jujubes (*e.g.*, the old voice-jujube style) are matured for weeks before they are cut, the basis being poured into tins, and these put into a constant-temperature room (70° F.) for from three to six weeks, before the mass acquires that toughness which permits the knife to cut it without sticking. Pastilles are made differently, the melted basis being poured into flour-moulds, made in bakers' trays; these are then put into the warm room to mature, and when their time comes are taken out, cleaned, and dipped in gelatine solution. The mechanical arrangements for the dipping have been designed by Mr. Warrick. Next we went into the lozenge-room, where I was particularly interested in the evolution of the oriform. The “oriform” is a sort of lozenge-tablet, for it is biconvex, but is not made by compression, although it looks like it. I can vouch for that because I saw it done, the ingredients being made into paste, the paste put through the machines (which cut six oriforms at a time), the lozenges next transferred to open-air drying-trays, and then into the drying-rooms—all the stages, in short, which medicinal lozenges must go through before they are fit for use. The advantage which the oriform has over the compressed tablet is that ore can work a lot of liquid into an oriform, but not into a tablet. There is a future before the oriform—a big future—and the cameo-like surface of the lettered ones is a good feature. Then we had a glance into the capsule and jelloid room—a locked apartment, where only trusted female workers are—and finished the tour by a walk through the ware-rooms, in one of which I saw a group of girls put up those “Real Flower” cachous which have become so famous. I tried to detect sympathy in Mr. Warrick's voice when he said that the girls were putting up the pound bottles every day, emptying one barrel, and taking another, and I am not sure that I have dreamed that he sighed. Anyway, there is nothing to sigh about in a big business, which I gathered is the position at 7 Portpool Lane. Next we went into a private laboratory, pregnant with possibilities, and into a perfume compounding room, where I was introduced to a safe containing the most curious things in the way of perfume ingredients which I have ever seen. It would have paid me to carry the safe off (I confess to a temptation to pocket the book of recipes which was lying on the top of it), for there were things in that safe which have never found their way into published recipes. One set I was much interested in—queer, resinous-looking oils they were, which are used in some of the most famous perfumes (their names I do not know). The oils are made by a Frenchman, who tells no one how he makes them. When he falls ill, and there is a demand for any of which stock runs out, the buyers have to wait until he is better; and when he dies, the oils will cease to exist, and with them the perfumes will go. Here I should stop, for I have exceeded my space; but in a last sentence I must say that Messrs. Warrick have done well by their removal. They have comfortable and central offices, capacities for doing an increasing business, and I am betraying no secret by saying that future development will be along the line of pharmaceutical specialities, amongst which perles will rank high, for Mr. Warrick has just completed his arrangements for turning these out in excellent style.

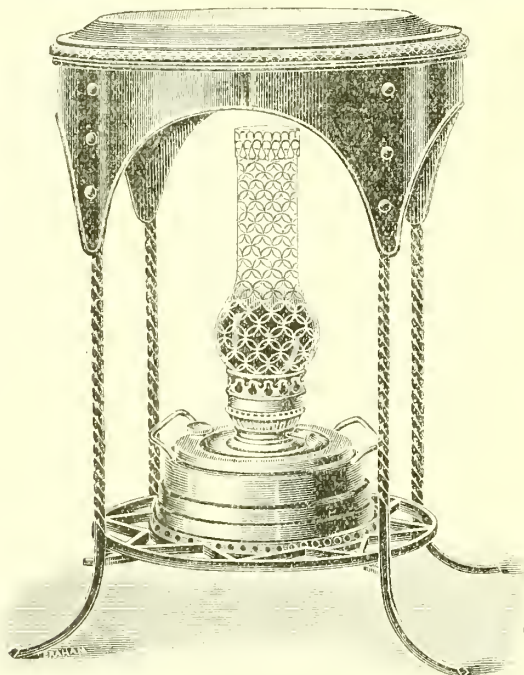
### “ARDENT” TABLE HEATING-STOVES.

Mr. L. SEPULCHRE, of Basinghall Avenue, E.C., has lately added to his series of oil-stoves several new designs, notably



"Hygienic Ardent" and the "New Ardent," the former being especially recommended for the continuous heating of bedrooms, &c. It is constructed on similar lines to the "Ardent" which were briefly described in the *C. & D.* when introduced two years ago.

The "Hygienic Ardent" is fitted with a fine-connection or stovepipe, which is intended to carry away the products collected in the table. It is also fitted with a reflector for throwing forward the heat—this of itself being an advantage, as most oil-stoves appear to retain the heat in the vicinity of the stove. The stove has a comfortable and cheerful appearance, the glare of the light being subdued by a ruby chimney protected by wire netting. It is claimed that the stove burns without smell and does not vitiate the atmosphere. I can testify to the truth of this statement after spending half an hour in the showroom where many were in operation. Mr. Sepulchre told me that chemists have taken up these



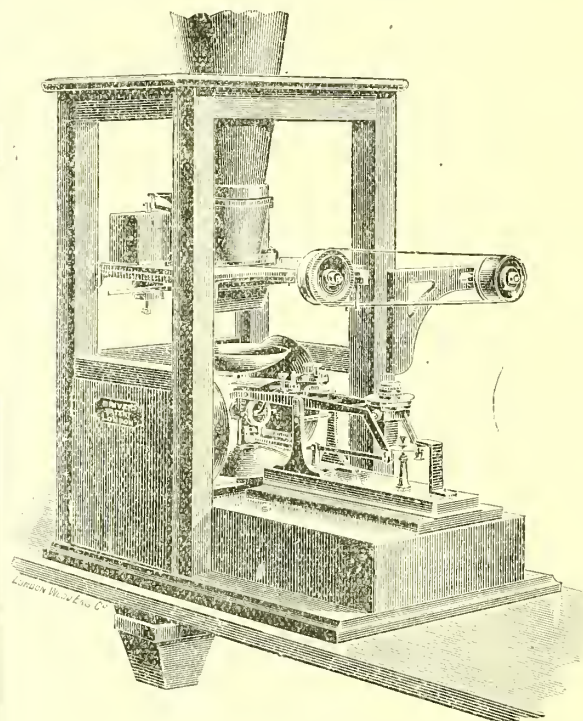
stoves readily, and he will forward an illustrated catalogue to any who think of following that example.

#### TEA-WEIGHING BY MACHINERY.

The automatic tea-weighing machine shown at the TOWER TEA COMPANY'S stand at the recent Grocers' Exhibition was one of the sights of the show—that is to say, if you were fortunate enough to get sufficiently near it, for during the greater part of the time it was blocked by a crowd. The machine, which is illustrated above, weighs any powdered substance from bulk into retail quantities. Tea, coffee, and cocoa are, of course, the materials for which it has, so far, been principally used in practice; but it might with equal advantage be employed for bicarbonate of soda, Epsom salts, mustard, and a number of other packet goods. The machine can be had in all sizes, and will automatically weigh any quantities from a few grains to 2 lbs. or more. At the Grocers' Exhibition the machine was shown together with an equally ingenious packing-machine, the combined plant, fed by two or three girls, turning out packets of Tower Tea ready for closing with extraordinary rapidity. The weighing-machine is worked by electricity. That shown on our illustration, which is specially designed for tea, has four scale-pans at the end of the weighing-beam. After each weighing operation the pans revolve a quarter of a turn and automatically deliver their contents in the shoot below, underneath which the packet or tin to be filled is placed.

The hopper and feeding arrangements of the machine vary according to the nature of the material it is desired to

weigh. In the prototype of our illustration the hopper shown at the top is continued through the floor above, where it communicates with a large bin containing an ascertained quantity of tea for weighing and packeting. This tea passes into the uppermost pan, first in a comparatively large stream, which is then automatically gradually reduced in size as the quantity of tea in the pan approaches the desired weight. At the moment when that weight is reached a very minute stream is flowing. This is automatically cut off by the turn of the weighing-beam, and in so doing it establishes an electrical contact, causing the



current to release the catch which holds the pans in position during filling. Thus released, the pan moves through a quarter of a revolution and tips its contents, at the same time bringing the succeeding pan into position for another weighing.

The working of the machine is effectively and simply controlled by the action of a single lever, which, by one throw-over to the side marked "Start," turns on the electric current, and allows the tea to flow out of the funnel into the uppermost pan below. The machine continues to work until the lever is again turned to the side marked "Stop," when both the current and flow of material are cut off. The name on a window of

#### JOHN TIMPSON & CO. (LIMITED),

the representatives in the British Empire of Messrs. Johnson & Johnson, Upjohn's pills, &c., caught my eye, so I stepped in to say "How d'ye do?" to Mr. Timpson. The premises are at 150 Golden Lane, E.C. Mr. Timpson told me that the J. & J. goods are going ahead. The company hope to add ere long to the articles in which they do business, and apparently their facilities are excellent. Happening to pick up one of the J. & J. price-lists, and to murmur something complimentary upon its excellent production, Mr. Timpson said, "I can show you something which beats that," and he called for a beautifully-lithographed sheet of illustrations of twelve suspensory bandages, made at the New Brunswick factories. "The object of this," said Mr. Timpson, "is that when a customer comes in for a bandage, instead of pulling out all your stock, you show him this, and ask him, 'What style do you like?'" The illustration shows him colour, cut, material, and price, and you have then only to take down the box containing the suitable size or style selected. Good, isn't it?" I admitted as much, and left with a neatly-folded copy of the sheet in my pocket.



## Röntgenography for Pharmacists.

### II.

THE first of this series of articles was printed in our issue of November 28, page 780. We have since received inquiries on specific points, some of which are dealt with in what follows, and others will be treated subsequently. Those who take up Röntgenography, radiography, skiagraphy, or whatever else the process may be called, should have at least an elementary knowledge of electricity, and some acquaintance with the electrical apparatus. The text-books used by pharmacists give the necessary information, but we may commend Maycock's "First Book of Electricity and Magnetism" (Whitaker & Co., 2s. 6d.) as being somewhat more practical and utilitarian than school text-books generally are. In regard to the  $x$  rays, a readable popular account, by Mr. Arthur Thornton, M.A., is published by Percy Lund & Co. (Limited) for 6d., which suffices for beginners. The general conditions of operating are well explained in the subjoined notes by Mr. Branson, who was one of the first pharmacists in this country to study  $x$  rays from the diagnostic point of view; and under his directions his firm—Messrs Reynolds & Branson, of Leeds—have secured an enviable reputation for the quality of their apparatus. In justice to the writer, we may state that his communication was made to us on October 18.

#### NOTES ON RADIOGRAPHY.

By F. W. Branson, Ph.C., F.I.C.

These notes are confined to a description of the apparatus which I have used in very many diagnostic cases.

**Battery.** As regards the battery, I consider that accumulators are better than primary cells. They are a very convenient and reliable source of power, provided they are not allowed to be out of use for any length of time. In localities where there are no facilities for recharging accumulators primary cells must be used. Of these there are several forms suitable for the purpose, and those that suffice for cauterizing work—viz., that will give a well-sustained powerful current—will be found sufficient. For small coils large bichromate cells will do fairly well, but for large coils a non-polarising battery is essential. If

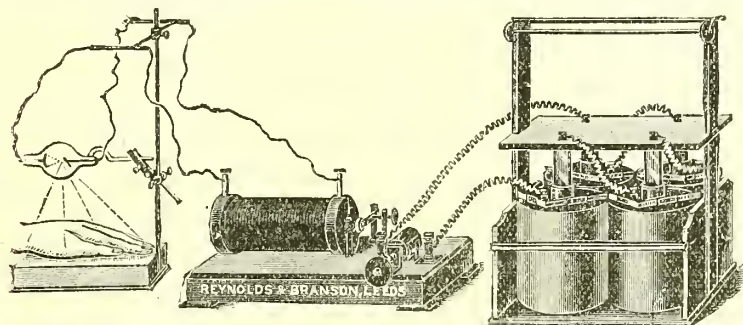


FIG. 1.—Shows the arrangement of the battery, induction coil, and Jackson's  $x$ -ray focus tube. The battery consists of zinc and carbon elements, the former within a porous cell. The exciting liquid is dilute sulphuric acid with a small percentage of sulphate of mercury, and the depolariser is dilute sulphuric acid with chromic acid.

a continuous current can be obtained from a public supply this may be used, but suitable resistances must be inserted. **Induction Coil.** The induction coil should be carefully wound in sections, and should give a spark of at least 2 inches. A 6-inch spark coil will usually give a good radiograph of an adult spine in thirty minutes, and the hand (at a distance of 6 inches) in thirty seconds. The coil may be fitted with either a Foucault's mercury-interrupter or the ordinary interrupter with platinum points. The surface of the platinum should be filed occasionally, and if this is done I think this form of "make and break" is preferable for coils of moderate intensity, but for very heavy currents the mercury contact is better. The mercury is usually covered with methylated spirit to prevent sparking in air, but even if this precaution is taken some oxidation of the metal occurs, and a sort of emulsion results. The

mercury and spirit should therefore be renewed as frequently as may be necessary.

There are several good forms of so-called "focus-tubes," but the simplest and best is

Jackson's form with concave cathode, which concentrates its cathode rays on the anode, which is a small platinum plate inclined at an angle of  $45^\circ$  to the axis of the tube. Of the many forms I have tried under very diverse conditions this has proved (if well made and of thin glass) the most durable and efficient. The tube requires selecting to suit the particular coil used, and if the vacuum increases,

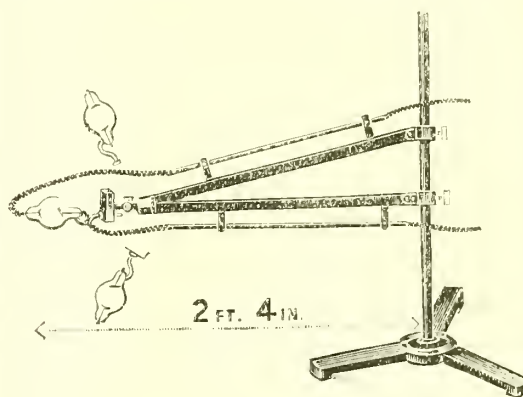


FIG. 2.

as is sometimes the case, the tube may be restored to its former efficiency by means of heat from a spirit-lamp. The best results are obtained within a very narrow range of temperature. If, however, the vacuum of the tube is exactly suited to the coil, no warming is needed.

Two forms of adjustable supports for holding the tubes for various cases are in use, but I need only refer here to a special one which I have designed for use when the patient lies upon a couch. In this case a small table (upon which the coil and battery stand) is placed alongside the couch, and with the support shown in fig. 2 the vacuum-tube can be placed in any desired position, as indicated by the engraving.

**Exposing-box.** This generally consists of a single slide with or without carrier, the exterior being of wood about a quarter of an inch thick, which must be as free from grain as possible, otherwise the structure of the wood will be radiographed on the negative.

**Fluorescent Screens.** Of the substances which I have tried, I find the barium platinocyanide to be the best.

This salt fluoresces yellow, and is therefore better for visual work than substances such as calcium tungstate or potassium platinocyanide which fluoresce white and bluish-white respectively. I have made a number of careful experiments with these salts with a view to shorten exposures, but very little is to be gained by using the barium salt except with orthochromatic films. The calcium tungstate gives off very actinic rays when under the influence of  $x$  radiations. The method of using this is to mix it with varnish and evenly distribute on a metal plate, which is then put in the exposing-box, with the sensitive surface of the photographic film on celluloid or gelatine (not glass) in contact, but between the tungstate screen and the source of the  $x$  rays. Calcium tungstate, prepared by mixing aqueous solutions of sodium tungstate and calcium chloride, does not fluoresce appreciably until it has been subjected to a high temperature. In the oxy-hydrogen furnace the powder assumes a semifused condition and is then highly sensitive. A full white-heat, however, gives excellent results. To secure a good radiograph over-exposure should be avoided, and slow and prolonged development with a weak developer adopted. Intensification with mercury perchloride followed



by ammonia very frequently greatly improves the printing qualities of the negative. Movement on the part of the patient can be generally prevented by means of bandages and supports. The distance of the tube from the photographic plate should not be less than 6 inches, preferably 12 to 18 inches, and if the distance is doubled the exposure should be quadrupled. Greater sharpness is obtained if the distance is increased. The object to be radiographed should be as near the plate as possible. As a rule, the tube should be arranged so that confusion of shadows does not result. In some cases, however—e.g. the adult spine—this rule may be departed from with advantage. In the case named the tube is placed in close proximity to the sternum—the shadow of the latter is then so diffused that interference with the image of the spine does not occur.

When taking a radiograph it is very important to ensure that the apparatus is in an efficient condition, and for this purpose the fluorescent screen is very useful; the hand may be used as an easy test, or an adult foot with the boot on, at a distance of 4 feet from the tube as a more difficult one. A 6-inch coil and a good screen should show the bones in the foot faintly outlined. If exact comparative results are desired under different conditions the *x* ray meter\* which I have devised for this purpose may be used (vide *Nature*, May 21, 1896).

Sometimes a rapid process for the production of a radiograph is required, and I have found that this result may be readily obtained by super-imposing on a photographic film a piece of the Eastman Matt Surface Bromide Paper. Both are placed in the exposing-box and subjected to the action of the *x* rays. On development, a negative and an impression on bromide paper result, the negative then being retained by the operator for subsequent use, and the paper negative may be utilised by the surgeon without delay.

Mr. Branson sends us several radiographs taken with the apparatus above described. These include one of the shoulder, showing the ribs very clearly, and another shows the spine and pelvic bones. Radiographs of a hand and a foot are also excellent. In the *Lancet* of November 21 there was a full-page reduction of a radiograph of a child's body, taken by Dr. Nathan Raw, of Dundee, which was remarkable in showing not only the bones, but the outlines of heart, lungs and liver, and epiphyses of bones. It was taken with an induction coil (6 inch spark), the tube used being one supplied by Messrs. Reynolds & Branson.

## Bankruptcies and Failures.

*Re* WILLIAM HENRY KERR, late of 9 New Bond Street, W. Chemist.

THE first meeting of creditors under this failure was held at the London Bankruptcy Court last Monday, before Mr. G. W. Chapman, Official Receiver. The debtor, who presented his petition on November 30, commenced business in January, 1885 at 9 New Bond Street, with a borrowed capital of 500*l*. (subsequently increased to 1,200*l*.) and about 300*l*. then owing to him for salary previously earned. The borrowed capital was repaid in the course of two or three years. The debtor carried on the business until 1890 or 1891, when it was decided to convert it into a limited liability company with a capital of 2,000*l*. in 1*l*. shares. Only 1,700 shares were issued, and, with the exception of 7 allotted to the signatories, the whole number was held by the debtor, who subsequently transferred them to his solicitor, in consideration of carrying on the divorce proceedings which were instituted by his wife in April or May, 1891. In addition to the share capital, debentures to the extent of 1,100*l*. were created and handed to Mr. King (Hodgkinson, Prestons & King), in consideration of goods supplied and money advanced. The debentures covered the goodwill, lease, fixtures, fittings, furniture,

and effects of the business, also a life policy for 500*l*. At the date of the formation of the company the debtor was appointed managing director at a yearly salary of 300*l*., but in the following year, owing to the falling off in the business, the amount was reduced to 200*l*., which was continued until last March, when the company went into liquidation. The business was then closed, and the goodwill, stock-in-trade, and effects were sold for 250*l*. to Mr. John Hancock, of Gracechurch Street, whilst the lease was sold to an artist for 300*l*. The proceeds of the sale of the stock, &c., were paid to Mr. Lewis Pass, as liquidator of the company and receiver for debenture-holder, and the money received for the lease was paid to the debenture-holder. The debtor attributes his failure solely to the result of the divorce proceedings instituted by his wife. He has filed accounts showing total liabilities, 1,141*l*. 18*s*. 3*d*. (unsecured, 1,011*l*. 18*s*. 3*d*.), and no available assets. In the absence of any offer, the case was left in the hands of the Official Receiver, to be wound up in the ordinary course of bankruptcy. Mr. H. Westbury Preston represented the debtor, whose public examination is appointed for January 15 next.

The following are the principal creditors, viz. :—

### Unsecured.

	£	s.	d.
Bowne & Hossey, Derby .. .. .	10	0	0
Bright, J. H. R., Great Portland Street, W. . . . .	61	14	6
Hartman, A., 15 New Bond Street, W. . . . .	40	0	0
Herbert, W. H., Cook Street, W. . . . .	300	0	0
Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C. . . . .	13	9	8
Kerr, Mrs. P., Portland Place, Duke Street, W. . . . .	90	0	0
Lyall & Co., Old Bond Street, W. . . . .	10	8	0
Radcliffe, J. R., 30 Brook Street, W. . . . .	14	0	0
Stephens, W., Hamble .. .. .	25	0	0
Torrens, Mrs. A., Hayes .. .. .	25	0	0

### Partly Secured.

Hancock, J., 55 Gracechurch Street, E.C. . . . .	135	4	9
(Security valued at 107 <i>l</i> .)			
Preston, H. Westbury, 14 Abchurch Lane, E.C. . . . .	300	0	0
(Security valued at 30 <i>l</i> .)			

*Re* EBENEZER BOWEN, Pontardulais, Chemist and Druggist, and Hotel-keeper.

THIS debtor's examination was opened at the Carmarthen Bankruptcy Court on December 9. His gross liabilities amounted to 1,372*l*. 19*s*. 11*d*.; there was 1,238*l*. 17*s*. 11*d*. to rank for dividend, and the deficiency amounted to 1,238*l*. 17*s*. 11*d*. The examination was adjourned to the next sitting.

*Re* ALFRED MARSDEN, Twerton, Chemist's Assistant.

THIS debtor applied at the Bath County Court on December 11 for an administration order over debts amounting to 40*l*. He attributed his position to the fact of being out of employment for two years, and to having started a chemist's shop at Twerton which proved a failure. An order was made for the payment of 7*s*. 6*d*. in the pound by instalments of 5*s*. a month.

## Deeds of Arrangement.

Dugdale, Alfred, 12 Wellhouse Street, and 96 Branch Road, Burnley. wholesale drysalter and confectioner. Trustee, Frederick A. Hargreaves, 7 Grimshawe Street, Burnley, C.A. Dated, December 7: filed, December 12. Liabilities unsecured, 738*l*. 1*s*. 3*d*.; estimated net assets, 325*l*. The following are scheduled as creditors :—

	£	s.	d.
Ashton, John G., Chorley .. .. .	48	0	0
Ashton, Kellett, Chorley .. .. .	10	0	0
Bassett, G. & Co., Sheffield .. .. .	28	0	0
Cambrian Vinegar Company, Leeds .. .. .	11	0	0
Chynoweth, Poppleton & Co., Lincoln .. .. .	10	0	0
Dixon, R. & Co., Rochdale .. .. .	12	0	0
Dugdale, John, Burnley .. .. .	0	0	0
Fry, J. S. & Sons (Limited), Bristol .. .. .	15	0	0
Guest, Thomas & Co., Manchester .. .. .	12	0	0

\* There is an illustration of this in the CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1897, page 137.—ED. C. & D.



	£	s.	d.
Heaton Norris Confectionery Company, Heaton			
Norr's .. .. .	12	0	0
Hudson, John, Leeds .. .. .	11	0	0
Icke & Co., Birmingham .. .. .	35	0	0
Kendall, Richard, Barnoldswick .. .. .	50	0	0
Meadowcroft, J. & Co, Bury .. .. .	13	0	0
New Heath Soap Company, Bootle .. .. .	13	0	0
Reckitts & Sons (Limited), Hull .. .. .	18	0	0
Robertson & McDougal, Edinburgh .. .. .	10	0	0
Sanders (Limited), Bristol .. .. .	35	0	0
Speck, James & Co., Leeds .. .. .	15	0	0
Sun Confectionery Company, Bristol .. .. .	11	0	0
Sutcliffe & Bingham, Manchester .. .. .	26	0	0
Walton, Blezard & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	13	0	0
York Confectionery Company (Limited) York .. .. .	14	0	0
Bankers' Claims.. .. .	43	0	0

Schofield, William Edmund, trading as Clegg, Schofield & Co., 1 York Street, Heywood, drug and patent-medicine dealer. Trustee, R. Gaudin (The British Trades Mercantile Agency), 20 Bond Street, Leeds. Dated, December 1; filed, December 8. Liabilities unsecured, 860*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; estimated net assets, 455*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool.. .. .	12	0	0
Banks & Maddock, Heywood .. .. .	16	0	0
Baxendale & Co., Manchester .. .. .	10	0	0
Calvert, —, Rochdale .. .. .	15	0	0
Coleman & Co., Norwich .. .. .	18	0	0
Harrison & Waide, Leeds .. .. .	11	0	0
Johnson & Co., Leeds .. .. .	13	0	0
Kemp, W., & Son, Horncastle .. .. .	29	0	0
Leach, Martha, Rochdale .. .. .	18	0	0
MacNair, A., Manchester .. .. .	10	0	0
Merroklu, —, Hull .. .. .	37	0	0
Partington, J., Heywood .. .. .	11	0	0
Permanent Money Club, Rochdale .. .. .	20	0	0
Riley, J., Manchester .. .. .	30	0	0
Royds, —, Heywood .. .. .	11	0	0
Schofield, J., Rochdale .. .. .	237	0	0
Stevens, J., Bury.. .. .	220	0	0
Stocks, F., Rochdale .. .. .	53	0	0
Young & Co., Manchester .. .. .	19	0	0
Bankers' claims .. .. .	16	0	0

Wilkes, William Henry Griffin, 256 Broad Street, 207 Hagley Road, and 292 Dudley Road, Birmingham, surgeon. Trustee, Charles W. Cotterell, 57 Colmore Row, Birmingham, L.A. Dated, December 7; filed, December 12. Secured creditors, 32*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; liabilities unsecured, 811*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*; estimated net assets, 164*l.* Assignment upon trust, &c., with a view to payment of creditors in full, debtor covenanting to pay trustee 12*l.* 10*s.* monthly, commencing January 1, 1897, to meet same, the last 50*l.* secured by a surety. Certain creditors postponing their claims amounting in all to 326*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Battley & Watts, London .. .. .	17	0	0
Beeney, C. A., Birmingham .. .. .	10	0	0
Borough of Birmingham Loan Society (and another)			
Birmingham .. .. .	21	0	0
Boucher, —, Birmingham .. .. .	27	0	0
Brown, W. H., Sutton Coldfield.. .. .	65	0	0
City Furnishing Company, Birmingham .. .. .	19	0	0
Cohen, Isaac, Birmingham .. .. .	11	0	0
Cram & Co., Birmingham .. .. .	10	0	0
Ferris & Co., Bristol .. .. .	24	0	0
Harris, Philip & Co., Birmingham .. .. .	52	0	0
Lonsdale —, Birmingham .. .. .	12	0	0
Overseers of Birmingham (rates) .. .. .	11	0	0
Parsons, James, Birmingham .. .. .	19	0	0
Richardson, John & Co. (Limited), Leicester .. .. .	32	0	0
Rudge, Samuel, Birmingham .. .. .	26	0	0
Sankey, William, Birmingham .. .. .	11	0	0
Simpson, W. H. & Son, Birmingham .. .. .	12	0	0
Tisdale, T., Birmingham .. .. .	10	0	0
Turner, Son & Nephew, Birmingham.. .. .	11	0	0
Wade, W., Birmingham .. .. .	11	0	0
Wilkes, John S., Birmingham .. .. .	196	0	0
Winsou Green Permanent Money Society (and another), Winsou Green .. .. .	44	0	0
Wood, Joseph & Co. (Limited), York .. .. .	25	0	0

MESSRS. COVERDALE & GRIERSON, 312 High Street, Lincoln, have a photographic dark-room.

## Gazette.

### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Pollitt, E., and Noton, L., liquid-starch manufacturers, Fallsworth, under the style of the Starcol Company.  
Meade, C. H., and Barton, E. J., Emborough, Somerset, under the style of the Somerset Fuller's Earth and Pottery Works.

### THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1833 AND 1890.

#### RECEIVING ORDERS.

Hagenbuch, Charles Henry, Munningham, Bradford, dyer-salter and agent.  
Dew, Walter, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, veterinary surgeon and tax-collector.

#### ADJUDICATIONS.

Lockyer, Conrad William, St. Julian's Farm Road, West Norwood, S.W., physician and surgeon.  
Schofield, William Edmund (trading as Clegg, Schofield & Co.), Heywood, English and foreign wine merchant and drug and patent-medicine dealer.

### ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Dent John Barnes (trading as J. B. Dent & Co.), Rotherham, brass-founder and mineral-water engineer—discharge suspended for two years, ending October 29, 1898.

## Trade Notes.

WE direct attention to the important announcement respecting Lac Bismuthi (Symes & Co., Limited), which appears on page 890.

WE have received from Spratt's Patent (Limited) a cod-liver oil dog-biscuit from the stores of the *Fram*. It was one of a stock supplied to Dr. Nansen on his special selection in May, 1893, and is in as good condition apparently as when it went out.

HUNYADI JANOS WATER—The *Lancet* of December 5 contained a long description of a visit to the source of Hunyadi Janos water, the article including an account of the bottling-works and remarks upon the chemical composition and therapeutic action of the water, which show the real scientific grounds upon which the reputation of this favourite water is based.

DR. CHARLES ROOKE (LIMITED) announce in this issue that they are introducing a 1*s.* 1½*d.* size of their Solar Elixir, and that the higher-priced bottles of this old-established medicine will for the future be considerably enlarged. The company intimate in their advertisement that they are prepared to offer specially advantageous terms to chemists, who must write to them to know what these are.

THE *Year-book* published by the Exors. Mr. H. W. Mackereth, Ulverston, is a remarkable specimen of enterprise from a retail drug-business. It contains a vast amount of general information, including local matters, covering some 500 pages, and, in addition, some eighty views and portraits perfectly reproduced on specially fine paper are given. These are generally of local interest and celebrity, but a quite recent one of John Ruskin is of unknown value. The book sells at 1*s.* 6*d.*, post-free 2*s.*

MR. S. HARVEY, of 5 Denman Street, S.E., the proprietor of Dr. Mackenzie's arsenical soap, writes on December 12 in reference to the case heard at the Chiswick Court on that day, the defence of which he undertook. Mr. Harvey asks chemists who have Dr. Mackenzie's soap in stock to let him know the quantity and he will send them special labels to affix to each tablet, which he considers will protect them from any prosecution or annoyance; or, if they prefer, they can obtain the labels through the wholesale houses. Mr. Harvey also informs us that he will defend anyone who may be proceeded against under the Pharmacy Act in respect to the sale of Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Soap, and will hold him indemnified. He would carry such a case to the High Court if necessary, in reliance on the decision in the case of the "Pharmaceutical Society v. Delfe."

## Legal Reports.

### THE PHARMACY ACT.

#### BATTLE'S VERMIN-KILLER—THE PROPRIETORS FINED.

AT Lincoln City Police Court on December 11, Messrs. Battle, Son & Maltby, chemists and druggists, of Lincoln, were charged on two summonses with selling strychnine which was not properly labelled with the name of the article and address of the seller, and also for selling the same to a person not known to the sellers, on October 21; and on two further summonses with similar infringement of the Act on November 18. Mr. R. E. Vaughan Williams prosecuted, and Mr. F. G. Williams, of Lincoln, defended.

Mr. Vaughan Williams explained that defendants were charged under the 17th section of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, which required that the name and address of the seller of the poison should be distinctly put on the wrapper. The seller must know the person to whom he was selling, and must make an entry in a book kept for that purpose whenever any poison was sold. The buyer must also state for what purpose he required the poison. On October 20 Mr. Harry Moon, clerk to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society, wrote to defendants for a packet of their "vermin-killer" to be sent to him, and he received it by post on the 21st. Secondly, Mr. Foulds inquiry agent, of Manchester, went to the premises on November 18 and asked for a packet of the same material. He was supplied, and the entries were made in the book. Mr. Foulds was not known to the defendants, as he had never been in Lincoln before. Mr. Moon and Mr. Foulds gave evidence as to the purchases, and Mr. Ernest J. Eastes, analyst, proved that the vermin-killer consisted principally of strychnine. In defence, Mr. F. G. Williams contended that the requirements of the Act had been complied with, in that on the inner label the words "Battle, Lincoln," were stamped, and on the outer label the words "Battle's vermin-killer. Poison." He contended that the Act did not require that the name of the poison should be on the label. They were bound to admit, so far as Mr. Moon's case was concerned, there was an inadvertency. The letter which was written was a trap into which they had undoubtedly fallen, and must take the consequences of, but with regard to the case of Mr. Foulds, there was only the slightest technical default. When Mr. Foulds came for the packet of vermin-killer, he said he came from the Great Northern Hotel, and the person who supplied him thought he belonged there, and that it was for the proprietress. Everything proper was done to comply with the Act, except that the person who served the poison did not actually know whom he was supplying. In the packets of vermin-killer there were no less than three wrappers, and he submitted that the defendant had complied with the Act in putting the words, "Battle's, Lincoln," on the one which actually contained the poison, the words of the Act being "or cover in which such poison is contained." Nobody had ever taken any objection before, and the defendant firm were not aware that they were in any way infringing the Act. The Bench decided to dismiss the cases respecting the labelling of the poison, and to convict upon the others. The penalty in the first case would be 1*l.* and 3*l.* 17*s.* costs, and in the second 10*s.* and 14*s.* costs. The Magistrates decided to state a case if Mr. V. Williams desired it.

### INFRINGEMENT OF THE MEDICAL ACT.

AT Kidegrove Police Court on December 3 Benjamin Wm. Davies, of The Hollies, Talke, was summoned, under the Medical Act, 1858, for wilfully and unlawfully pretending to be a surgeon. Mr. Edward Paine, the prosecuting counsel, stated that at his residence the defendant had painted the words "Surgery Hours." Evidence was given that he had given a certificate certifying the cause of death in the case of a child for which he had prescribed, and that a man named Hulse was sent to call on the defendant and represent to him that he was suffering from pain in the back. Hulse was examined by the defendant, who supplied him with a bottle of medicine, for which 1*s.* 6*d.* was charged. Two days later he paid a second visit to defendant, who

supplied him with another bottle of medicine, and gave him a certificate stating that he (Hulse) was unable to follow his employment. This certificate defendant signed "B. W. Davies, per pro. Dr. Downs, M.B., Surgeon, &c." Mr. William Downs, M.B., Kidegrove, stated that he never authorised defendant to use his name. Defendant had never acted as his assistant. Defendant pleaded guilty. The Stipendiary said that a little over twelve months ago defendant was convicted for two instances of the same kind of offence and was fined 20*l.* and costs. He now fined him 20*l.* and costs.

### SELLING METHYLATED SPIRIT WITHOUT A LICENCE.

AT Kettering, on December 9, Francis Morris, chemist, Desborough, was charged with selling methylated spirit without a licence. Mr. Connolly, Wellingborough, Excise officer, prosecuted. Defendant pleaded guilty to the offence being committed on his premises, but submitted that the spirit was sold by his wife, who was ignorant of the matter. He had since taken out a licence. Defendant was fined 5*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* costs.

### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

#### ARSENICAL SOAP.

AT Brentford Police Court, on December 12, before Mr. G. G. Mackintosh (Chairman) and other Justices, Thomas Turner, chemist, of 292 High Road, Chiswick, was summoned by Walter Tyler, Inspector to the Middlesex County Council, for having sold arsenical soap not of the nature and substance demanded.

Mr. Arthur Hutton, barrister, defended.

An assistant to the inspector called at defendant's shop and asked for a tablet of arsenical soap. He was handed a tablet wrapped up in paper, bearing the label, "Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Toilet-soap. S. Harvey, London. 1*s.*" The tablet itself was stamped with the same words. Tenpence was paid for it. It was sent to Mr. E. Bevan, the county analyst, who certified as follows:—"I am of opinion it contains only the minutest quantity of arsenic—not more than one-hundredth of a grain to the pound. N.B.—Such an amount of arsenic is absolutely insignificant, and is of no value. This amount is not more than might be accidental to the materials of which the soap is composed."

For the prosecution it was urged that the case was on all-fours with those heard the previous week, with the exception that in those cases there was no arsenic in the soap, whilst here there was a minute quantity. The amount was so small, however, as to be of no value as a preparation for the skin, and therefore the purchaser was as much prejudiced as if none at all was present.

Mr. Hutton admitted the facts. He would not raise any of the points which were put before the Court in the other cases, but he simply urged that the Bench had no power to convict if they came to the conclusion there was arsenic in the soap. He did not admit the analyst's statement that the presence of the arsenic was due to the component parts of the soap, but he relied upon the first part of the certificate. There was a definite statement that arsenic was in the compound, and in the face of that all the requirements of the Act had been complied with. The prosecution sought to put upon the Bench the duty of deciding how much arsenic should be in soap or drugs. That would be a difficult and troublesome duty to discharge, and at the same time unsatisfactory, and he did not suppose they would undertake it. There was no standard to guide them, and really the decision rested between the buyer and the seller. All the terms of the Act had been complied with, and the notice issued by the maker contained the information for the purchaser, "It contains a very small quantity of arsenic." Here was notice to the purchaser, and that, together with the fact of the presence of arsenic, took the case out of the category of those already decided.

Inspector Tyler: With great submission I must recall to the memory of the Bench that in one of the cases last week there was evidence that arsenic was put in the soap, yet a conviction followed. The analyst certifies that the small quantity of arsenic is only what is ordinary to the soap itself.



Mr. T. Cannington (a Magistrate): Nonsense! Ridiculous! Do you mean to say there is arsenic in all soap made?

Inspector Tyler: I mean in most minute particles. Also it was given in evidence there was the three-millionth part of a grain of arsenic in it.

Mr. Hutton: On the last occasion it was sworn that there was no arsenic. This time it is sworn there is. That is the difference.

Mr. Allen Brown (a Magistrate): Do you contend that it is absolutely necessary to artificially put in a certain amount of arsenic, irrespective of the knowledge of the soap-maker that there is a certain amount of arsenic naturally in it?

Inspector Tyler: I submit that it should be. To be arsenical soap, I contend that at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gr of arsenic per pound should be in it. Here we are dealing with one-hundredth part of a grain.

The Chairman: The quantity is not laid down anywhere. If there is any arsenic at all, it may be called arsenical soap. There is no standard laid down, and we are unanimously of opinion there is no case.

The summons was therefore dismissed.

#### A CASE DEFERRED.

AT Richmond Petty Sessions on Thursday, before his Worship the Mayor and other Justices, J. W. Taplin, of 3, Station Parade, Kew Gardens, Richmond, chemist, was summoned by B. A. Houghton, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act to the county of Surrey, for having sold arsenical soap not of the nature and substance demanded.

Mr. Oldfield, barrister, appeared to defend.

The facts showed that an assistant to the Inspector obtained from the defendant's shop for 6d a tablet of soap, the wrapper of which was labelled "Dr. Mackerzie's Arsenical Toilet-soap, No. 2, unscented, perfectly harmless. S. Harvey." It was not divided into three parts, the assistant declining. It was submitted to the analyst (Dr. Stevenson) whose certificate read, "I am of opinion the sample contains the parts as under, or the percentages of foreign ingredients as under:—Soap, free from arsenic, 100 per cent. Observations: There is no authorised formula for arsenical soap."

Dr. Stevenson, called to prove his certificate, said that he was extremely minute in his analysis, as he had heard that there was  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of a grain per lb. in this make of soap. He divided the sample in two. One-half he had with him. Replying to questions from the Bench, he said he could satisfactorily detect the presence of arsenic when it existed in the proportion of one part in half a million; he could detect it to the extent of one part in a million. Had there been  $\frac{1}{100}$ th part of a grain per lb. in the soap, the amount in the whole sample would be  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th part of a grain. In substance, even if it contained that amount, he should regard it as free from arsenic for all practical purposes.

The Mayor: It would have no effect on the skin?—It is a popular fallacy that arsenic is good for the complexion. I have asked several chemists their opinion upon arsenical washes, and they said they never supplied them. If taken internally, it was only  $\frac{1}{40}$ th part of a medicinal dose, supposing the arsenic existed at the ratio of  $\frac{1}{100}$ th part of a grain to the pound.

The Mayor: Then the statement "There is no soap which has so marvellous effect upon the skin and preventing the growth of hair" you consider incorrect?—It cannot be done with arsenic.

In cross-examination, witness said arsenic in lotions and washes for medicinal purposes had been obsolete for years. There were limits to his powers of detection, but he should say it was quite possible to trace arsenic in ordinary soap, its presence being due to the component parts of the soap.

Mr. Oldfield submitted that soap was not a drug. Before there could be any conviction under the 6th section of the Act, the Bench must be satisfied this was a drug.

Alderman Burt (a Magistrate): Do you admit there is no arsenic in it?

Mr. Oldfield: For the purposes of argument. But I say, in any event, the proceedings should be taken under the Merchandise Marks Act.

Mr. Donlehy (a Magistrate): So, if that line of argument was to be pursued, it must be supported by the fact that there was no arsenic in the soap.

Alderman Burt: Do you say there is arsenic in the soap or not? Is your advertisement true in fact?

Mr. Oldfield: It is.

Alderman Burt: If that is so it must be a drug, and you are on the horns of a dilemma.

The Mayor: The advertisement of the soap contends "There is no soap made which has such a marvellous effect upon the complexion, making hands white, nourishing the skin, and preventing the growth of superfluous hair." That is beyond toilet purposes.

Mr. Oldfield: I may say that is a little "puffing," which should not be used against my client.

The Mayor said the Bench had come to the conclusion that the soap was a drug.

Mr. Oldfield then applied for an adjournment, so that the said moiety of the sample could be sent to Somerset House for analysis, and the Bench assented to the application.

#### BORAX ADVERTISEMENTS.

ON Saturday, in the Queen's Bench Division judgment was entered by Mr. Justice Wright in the action which was brought by Sall's Advertising Agency (Limited) against the Harmony Borax Company, to recover the cost of inserting advertisements in various papers. The case was before his Lordship and a jury a week or two ago, when the jury found that there was no express authority given to Carpenter to give orders for advertisements. They also found that there was a holding out of Carpenter to Jenkins as having authority to give orders for advertisements in newspapers. In the result a verdict was given for the plaintiffs for 79s. 11s. 3d., but judgment was not entered. After hearing plaintiffs' counsel, his Lordship, without calling upon counsel for the defendants, said it seemed to him that, apart from any question of fraud, the defence was made out. The findings of the jury amounted to this, that Carpenter in giving the orders did not act in the execution of his managership, whether actively or ostensibly, and Jenkins, who obtained the orders, knew that Carpenter was not acting on his authority, and intended to and did obtain the orders which he knew were not given in defendants' interest at all, and which he knew would be a fraud on the defendants. On these findings it seemed to him that the verdict should be entered for the defendants.

#### COUNTY COURT CASE

##### CLAIM AGAINST A CHEMIST.

In the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, the case of Harper v. Ash was heard, in which the plaintiff, a printer, sought to enforce payment of the judgment-debt in respect of work done to the order of the defendant, a chemist, carrying on business at King's Road, Chelsea. The debtor did not appear, and, as he was said to be in a good way of business, his Honour made an order for payment in a month, subject to committal in default.

ST. JOHN LONG'S LINIMENT.—"Subscriber," Mass.—We are not acquainted with this preparation; and it is apparently unknown in this market. Inquiry regarding it, of several leading dealers, has elicited only negative answers.—*Druggists' Circular*. [This is rather hard upon the "National Formulary," which gives a recipe for the preparation.]

FRANZ JOSEF FLORA.—The *Geographical Journal* contains a paper by Mr. Brice on the Jackson-Harmsworth Polar Expedition, to which is appended notes on Franz Josef Flora, by Mr. Harry Fisher, Ph.C., botanist of the expedition. "The chief features of this flora are the absence of willows, sedges, the heath family, the mountain sorrel, the dandelion, the house-worts, and a few other species [? genera], which in other Arctic regions attain an altitude as high as Franz Josef Archipelago." But the rare and beautiful grass *Pleuropogon Sabinii*, Br. is found there, and amongst other plants named are *Papaver nudicaule*, *Cardamine bellidifolia*, *Colebaria fenestrata*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, and *S. stellaris*, L. (var. *limosa foliosa*). Altogether, 27 phareogams, 25 mosses, 70 lichens, 10 fungi, 35 genera of diatoms, 210 protophyta and fresh-water algae, and 10 marine algae were collected by Mr. Fisher.



# JEWSBURY & BROWN'S

SODA-WATER,  
Lemonade, Ginger Ale,

BREWED GINGER-BEER,  
&c., &c.

Manufactory—ARDWICK GREEN, MANCHESTER.

## G. S. MUMFORD

FARRINGTON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	16/cwt.	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	21/cwt.
No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	14/cwt.	No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	25/cwt.
BEST CLEANED LINSEED	15/cwt.	No. 2 Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	21/cwt.
No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/cwt.	"WHITE EARTH" Specially prepared for Toilet purposes.	18/cwt.
No. 2 Pure FULLER'S EARTH	13/cwt.	Finest Pure Sifted TOILET OATMEAL	21/cwt.
Pure LIQUORICE	11/lb.	Best Pure ARROWROOT	9/lb. in tins

\*CARRIAGE PAID to Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (for allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.

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BUTTER POWDER,  
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### ELEVEN INJUNCTIONS

With damages and costs, have been obtained against Chemists selling a liquid not manufactured by Condy and Mitchell, Ltd., in execution of orders for "CONDY'S FLUID."

## CORRECTION.

The statement in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1897, page 277, that Messrs. SYMES & CO., who first introduced

### LAC BISMUTHI,

had not protected the title is not correct. Messrs. SYMES & CO. (LIMITED), 14 Hardman Street, are the Registered Owners of the Trade Mark "Lac Bismuthi," and they will instruct their Solicitors, with a view to legal proceedings, in the case of any infringement of their rights which may come to their knowledge.



—"are fond of holding a cartridge in their hands whilst engaged in a political discussion. Naturally, the ITROSYL is not idle meanwhile, and by the time the operator is ready to open the tube, such pressure has accumulated within, that when the point is snapped off, the contents are discharged with more force than politeness."

### THE PERSONAL ELEMENT.

In the circular just issued by Mr. William Day, the unquenchable managing director of Day's Southern Drug Company, there is a very remarkable paragraph in reference to the personal element in pharmacy which we think is worthy of being specially selected and preserved. Mr. Day



is aiming to prove to the proprietors of specialities that the pot is blacker than the kettle; that chemists are the real substitutors; and that drug companies and cash-price people only do it occasionally, and then apparently with much reluctance. Not only have chemists a sort of propensity towards big profits, but their peculiar position renders it almost inevitable that they should try to make these. They have such an exceptional opportunity. This is how Mr. Day puts it:—

Then there is the "personal" element to be taken into account. The public are always inclined to give more weight to the recommendations of a principal than to those of an assistant. The personal influence of the proprietor of a chemist's business is also enormously increased when he has carried on business in the same place for many years. If he be a worthy man, he receives, and rightly receives, the confidence and confidences of his customers, who not only willingly accept his advice, but convey it to their friends, especially if they think they have derived benefit from what he has recommended. Compare these conditions with those existing at a busy drug-store, where the proprietors are generally entirely unknown to the customers, and the personnel of the staff is continually changing.

We have heard about this "personal element" in pharmacy ever since we have known what pharmacy meant. In presidential addresses, in after-dinner speeches at pharmaceutical banquets, and in exhortations to pharmaceutical students, much has been said, and rightly said, on this topic. We have ourselves sometimes endeavoured to explain the idea. But we have never heard it put so neatly, and so effectively, or more truly than Mr. Day puts it in the paragraph we have quoted. We thank him cordially for the assistance of his able pen.

But if this is so; if there are some 8,000 men in the United Kingdom—some of them "worthy men"—wielding this personal influence, is that not a serious consideration for proprietors of medicinal specialities? Even "worthy men" want a little profit, and those who, in the amiable language of "the European manager for Charles Vogeler & Co.," are "unprincipled" will have it. "Worthy" or "unprincipled," it is these men—men with this personal influence throughout the length and breadth of the land—in whose hands lies mainly the distribution of proprietary medicines. The great majority of the men are sensible, and the great majority of the proprietary medicines are good for the purpose they are made for. Here and there one man talks wildly about "quack medicines," and here and there one speciality is a fraud. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the question of principle as regards what is recommended scarcely comes in: the question is one of simple commerce. But proprietors and European managers may take it from us, if the problem is too recondite for their own intellects, that there is a rapidly-growing disinclination on the part of pharmacists, who have some brains and a good many opportunities at their disposal, to fool away much more of their time and service over transactions which will scarcely find them in salt. At the same time, it may be equally understood that they are not going to let those brains and opportunities rust.

#### A CHRISTMAS-BOX FROM THE TRADE.

THE election of three aged persons to pharmaceutical annuities, which we reported last week, reminds us that the Benevolent Fund is sorely in need of money at present, and as only a fortnight of the financial year remains, we trust that those of the craft who have not yet contributed to the fund this year will do so before Christmas Day. It is a most

deserving charity—the only one connected with the drug-trade—and by the 1868 Pharmacy Act its benefits are open to all on the register of chemists and druggists and their families, irrespective of connection with the Pharmaceutical Society. We have the privilege of hearing particulars of the cases to which relief is granted from month to month, and we can testify to the beneficence of the charity, while many a poor fellow stranded in London is helped to his home, or assisted to retrieve his fortunes, through the Secretary's Casual Relief Fund. What is needed at present is 8,000 to 10,000 shillings to meet the payments to the annuitants which must be sent on New Year's Day, and if these shillings could come from those who have not already subscribed this year, all the better. We would suggest that during the incoming week a collection should be made amongst the workers in every pharmacy and drug-store in Great Britain, and the sums collected sent as a Christmas-box to the fund, addressed to Mr. Richard Bremridge, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. This is not an occasion for big donations, but for small subscriptions. Donations must be invested, subscriptions are immediately available; and if only a florin on an average comes from each pharmacy in Great Britain, the amount will more than meet present needs. We hope our suggestion will be taken up with heartiness, and in that spirit of goodwill which is the key-note of Christendom at this season.

#### THE COMING "TRUST" SYSTEM.

THE *Spectator* is much upset because it sees signs that the system of organising all large industries into "trusts" for the benefit of a handful of ruthless capitalists is spreading to this country from America. Everybody knows that the people of the United States groan under the oppression of the monopolists who control the supply of almost every article of human need, and many are aware that one of the popular cries that carried Mr. Bryan so near to victory was his declaration against "trusts and combines." The *Spectator* believes that free-trade alone stands between the British people and the robber-knights of "Trust"-industrialism; but it fears that even free-trade will not be sufficient protection against the new *chevaliers d'industrie*. It calls attention to a letter alleged to have been sent by the Bedstead Manufacturers' Association of Birmingham (an organisation which appears to aim at the monopolisation of the trade in metal bedsteads) to a manufacturer telling him that a previous offer to admit him into the Association for 250l. "entrance fee" is withdrawn, and that, if he wants to come in now, he must pay an "entrance fee" of 2,000l.

We quite share the *Spectator's* detestation of the trust system, though not its apprehensions of wholesale extension to this country. Singularly enough, our contemporary's illustrations of the working of the system are all drawn from the drug-trade. Here is one:—

A "syndicate" of capitalists subscribe as many millions of dollars as they think necessary, constitute a company with shares, and proceed to buy up all the stocks and supplies, as they arrive, of the materials upon which they have fixed their eyes—say the more popular chemical drugs. They next offer a very limited number of shares to all druggists who will "enter the combination," who will buy chemicals exclusively from them, and who will sell to the public at prices which the syndicate fix. Most druggists yield, and the few who do not, find their credits with the great importers suddenly gone, their supplies cut off or run up in price beyond reason, while their retail shop trade is locally undersold, and in six months disappears. Within twelve months the Chemical Trust becomes possessed of the whole drug-trade of the Union—it is an enormous one, for Americans are usually dyspeptic, and always believe in medicine—and thenceforward the syndicate settles the prices of all drugs at discretion. If it is a clever syndicate, as it usually is, it avoids maddening the doctors by raising the price of ordinary medicine till it cannot be paid for, and declines to quarrel with all nursing mothers by making feeding-bottles unobtainable, but it charges prices for chemicals generally which yield it dividends of,



say, 30 per cent. for a long period of time. It finally remarks, with lofty complacency, through many papers that American drugs have greatly improved in purity, and that some one article in wide demand, say jalap or rhubarb, is really astonishingly cheap. The statement is generally true, particularly when the syndicate is able to seem moderate and kindly by not raising the price at all, but only absorbing the profit of a fall which but for the syndicate would have benefited every household in the Republic.

Our contemporary is in error in assuming that the prices of quinine and chamomile-flowers have ever been "raised excessively" by the operation of a Trust. In the case of chamomile flowers there have been "corners," but never, so far as we know, an organised syndicate. In quinine something of the kind has been repeatedly attempted: in 1884, when the scheme, after a very short career, ended in the bankruptcy, suicide, and disgrace of some of the actors, and more recently, when a working agreement was successfully established. But no syndicate has ever had control of the entire supply of quinine, and the stock in second hand has always been sufficient to prevent an excessive advance in price.

We may, however, before the century is out, see some determined attempts to form syndicates in crude drugs such as exist already in most of the manufactured chemicals. The camphor-ring was the beginning of these attempts, and at its head was one of those very new millionaires whom the *Spectator* dislikes, and whom even the steady-going, orthodox *Standard* has begun to hold up to ridicule and contempt.

### STILL THEY COME.

ANY thoughtful person who watches the introduction of synthetic remedies, especially those made in Germany, must have noticed that mixed with them are a number of things which cannot be called anything else than quack medicines. The fact that a thing has a scientific name does not make it a remedy worth trying, yet the name seems, in some instances, to be the sole claim for recognition. Moreover, other remedies which are the result of honest chemical research are put forward with far too little pharmacological and clinical data to back them up. In noting below some of the newest remedies which have, with one or two exceptions, reached us from Germany, we make no attempt to sift out the hopeful ones. Time will do this.

**Antibakterin** is a remedy for consumption and other infectious diseases. It is supposed to owe its properties to ortho boric ethyl ether, but the unimaginative Dr. Aufrecht reduces it to this simple form:—

Acid. boric. .. ..	6.25
Liq. ferri sesquichlor. .. ..	1.5
Spt. atheris muriatici ad .. ..	100

**Anusol.**—Some dispensers might think from the name that anusol is a synthetic remedy of some sort, but it is the title of a proprietary suppository for the cure of hæmorrhoids. They consist of zinc oxide, resorcin, bismuth, oxydide, and Peru balsam (otherwise called bismuth iodo-resorcin sulphate, which sounds better), with a cocoa-butter basis.

**Chloralacetophenoxime** is the latest remedy for epilepsy, eclampsia, and tetanus. It is made by the interaction of equal molecular proportions of chloral and acetophenoxime in presence of benzol. It is a crystalline substance insoluble in water. A. C. Jensen, of Frankfurt, is the patentee of it. We have not seen any clinical reports on it.

**Eucasin** is the ammonia salt of casein, and occurs as a fine white powder, which forms a clear solution with warm water. It is not introduced as a medicine, but as a food, and, in combination with chocolate and the like, it is an acceptable and nourishing food.

**Holzin** is a substance introduced as an antiseptic by a German doctor called Oppermann. The *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* publishes an analysis of the wonderful substance by Dr. Aufrecht, and the particulars are briefly as follows:—Holzin is a clear, colourless liquid of sp. gr. 0.923, and con-

sists of menthol 1 part, formaldehyde 17½ parts, and methylalcohol 81½ parts (all by weight). Holzin oil is a medicine for whooping-cough, and consists of formaldehyde 2 parts, menthol 40 parts, and methyl alcohol 58 parts (all by weight.)

**Iodothyryn** is the new name for thyroiodin, the reputed active principles of the thyroid gland. It is a trituration of these principles with milk-sugar, and is a white powder. Dose, 15 to 30 gr.

**Mydrol** is a synthetic mydriatic, and second cousin to antipyrin, its family name being iodomethylphenylpyrazolone. It is a white powder, easily soluble in water, and has a bitter taste.

**Naphthoresorcin** is made by heating dioxynaphthalin sulphate with a mineral acid, and crystallising. It is made by Bayer, and is, we understand an antiseptic.

**Oxycamphor**, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>CHOH.CO, is an antispasmodic and sedative, made by Manasse, of Munich.

**Oxyphenacetinsalicylate** is one of Meister, Lucius & Bruning's latest achievements, but what it is for we do not know. An improvement on phenacetin probably.

**Paraplast** is Dr. Unna's latest achievement in skin-preparations. It is fine, thick cotton-web, on which is spread a mass consisting of caoutchouc, wool-fat, common resin, and dammar resin, mixed with the appropriate medicaments.

**Phenol-iodosalicylate** has been patented by E. Herzfeld, of Berlin. It occurs in colourless, needle shaped crystals, and is a combination of molecular proportions of salol and iodine. It is proposed as an abolisher (we shall not say substitute) of iodoform.

**Pyramidon** is a derivative of antipyrin, being constitutionally dimethylamidophenyldimethylpyrazolone, and so far the longest name introduced into medicine. Professor W. Filehne is sponsor for it, and he says it is a yellowish-white crystalline powder, soluble 1 in 10 of water, and pleasantly-tasted. It gives the iron reaction of antipyrin, but with a nitrite and sulphuric acid an intense violet instead of a green colour is produced. Physiologically and therapeutically the action of pyramidon is the same as antipyrin, and the dose is from 3 gr. to 8 gr. Its chief advantage over antipyrin is its pleasant taste.

**Sodium Tellurate** has been given by Joguet in ½-gr. doses once a day for checking the night-sweats of phthisis, which it does effectually, but the odour created in the patient's breath is almost as bad as the sweating.

**Sterisol**, an internal remedy for infectious diseases, is, according to Dr. Aufrecht, above-mentioned, a mixture of milk-sugar, 2.98 per cent.; sodium chloride, 0.672 per cent.; potassium phosphate, 0.322 per cent.; formaldehyde, 0.520 per cent. and water, 95.506.

**Stemmatol** comes from Norway. It is an antiseptic, and is Norwegian in odour, for, says the *Phar. Zeit.*, the following formula gives a preparation like it:—

	Parts
Oil of turpentine .. ..	4
Soap .. ..	2
Rectified spirit .. ..	45
Aromatics .. ..	..
Glycerine .. ..	5
Water .. ..	42

The secret seems to lie in these aromatics.

**Tanosal** is a combination of tannin and creosote introduced by Frigel, of Mulhausen, as a solution (15 gr. in a teaspoonful) and pill (5 gr. in each). It is an intestinal antiseptic and astringent, and is painfully like the substance next mentioned, both in name and composition.

**Thanatol** is interesting, because it has been named after Professor Than, of Buda Pest. It is the ethyl ether of brenezatechin, and is, therefore, the same as Merck's guaethol. It is made by the interaction of guaiacol and ethyl radical. It is better than guaiacol for tuberculosis, &c.

**Thioavonals** are water-soluble sulphur soaps, made from good old-fashioned balsam of sulphur. They are soft and liquid sulphur soaps, and they are made by dissolving the balsam in alcohol, and saponifying with potash, very gradually added, otherwise the sulphur separates quickly. When saponification is complete, the mixture is neutralised with an ether solution of oleic acid, and the mixture evaporated to a syrup (for liquid soap) or paste (for soft soap). The soaps are used in skin-diseases.



In due course most of these things will be added to books which deal specifically on new remedies, and some of them will be called for by enterprising physicians. The long-suffering pharmacist will acquiesce, and when they are done the shelves will be cleared for the next lot.

#### SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE AS A DISINFECTANT.

It is strange how we get back to old-fashioned disinfectants. We are tending that way now in regard to the much-abused hypochlorites. Dr. E. Klein, F.R.S., has communicated a paper to the *Lancet*, in which he shows that a solution of sodium hypochlorite containing 1 per cent. of available chlorine had a remarkably quick action upon sewage, 1 part of the solution to 100 parts of sewage sufficing to kill all the non-sporing microbes in it in ten minutes.

#### A PHOTOGRAPH COUPON.

We have long been able to insure our lives for a fortune by buying sixpennyworth of modern periodical literature, and that idea has grown rather stale. A new temptation has been devised by the publishers of "The British Almanac for 1897" (which in itself is a wonderful shillingsworth), Messrs. Charles Letts & Co., of the Royal Exchange. With each copy they give a coupon which every purchaser of the almanac may take to one of some fifty photographers in London and the provinces, and get in exchange for it one copy of a cabinet portrait of himself. Additional copies will, of course, have to be paid for. The notion seems capable of infinite development, and might be adapted to soap, pills, tea perfume, and all the other articles on which advertising money is so lavishly spent.

#### THE CLUE DOCTOR AND MINOR AILMENTS.

A dispute has been raging at Portsmouth between some of the friendly societies there and the doctors who attend them. The doctors have struck for higher pay and for stricter conditions in regard to the limitation of incomes of members of such societies. The executive of the "Tents of the Order of the Rechabites" have cut the discussion short by refusing to accede to the medical men's terms, and engaging an outside doctor who will devote his services to them entirely. This is one of the offences which the Medical Council candidates wish to have declared a capital offence, but which, for the time, at least, is legal. The Odd Fellows and Foresters are still discussing the matter. The usual present payment, it appears, is 4s. per annum per adult, and 2s. 6d. per child. The *Portsmouth Evening News*, in relating what has taken place, says the medical men concerned stated their views quite freely to its reporters. One of their complaints was that members of friendly societies gave unnecessary trouble to the court doctor by seeking his advice for the slightest ailment, "often in cases where a visit to a chemist's shop, or where some simple and well-known medicine would have met all their requirements." So much for the impossibility of people distinguishing minor ailments for themselves, or of chemists diagnosing their complaints, when only 4s. a year hangs on the business!

#### SPENT GINGER.

There is an interesting series of papers in the current *Analyst* on spent ginger and its detection. The series begins with a note by Mr. T. P. Blunt, formerly a pharmaceutical examiner, who as public analyst was concerned in the case reported in the *C & D.* of September 26, p. 431, which was dismissed mainly on the evidence for the defence of Mr. W. O. Williams (a colleague of Dr. Campbell Brown), who said that the microscope was the truest test. Mr. Blunt now replies to this by showing that though microphotographs of true and spent ginger are quite different, when 50 per cent.

of the spent stuff is mixed with the pure, it is difficult to say whether the mixture is pure or not. To this Mr. Williams replies "the chemical evidence is the most important and truest, but only if the analyst's mind is impressed by the important ingredients rather than by the unimportant ingredients. The true place of the microscope is to furnish frequently very valuable confirmation of either positive or negative evidence." Practically, he says that he did not say that the microscope is the truest test—"no chemist would" do so. Mr. W. F. K. Stock also contributes, saying that "the microscope utterly fails to distinguish between the starches of the spent and true gingers." Mr. A. H. Allen, Dr. Dyer, and Mr. Hehner, also joined in the discussion, Mr. Allen strongly supporting Mr. Blunt. There are some interesting figures in the papers to which we may afterwards refer.

#### A STORM IN A BEER-VAT.

The principal product brewed at the Brewers' Exhibition is trouble. There is a fine, frothy brew of that now on tap. An Ancient Crow in one of Mr. Leland's stories committed suicide because

He knew dat dropples gomes, py Chinks!  
Ven de Dootch go in for Yankee drinks,

and a similar fate seems hanging over the *Mineral Water Trade Journal*, because it advocates that the Mineral Water Engineers shall rescind a former resolution of some of their number not to exhibit at the Brewers' Exhibition, and go in *en masse* for the Publicans' show of next November. The Mineral Water Engineers, however, are more than ever determined not to support the Brewers' Exhibition again. Here is a summary of the account of the squabble, given to us by the Secretary of the Mineral Water Engineers and Allied Trades Protection Association,—weird title! The Mineral Water Engineers and other exhibitors have felt for some time that frequently-recurring exhibitions are positively and seriously detrimental to their business. The cost of exhibiting has always been great, and for some years the charges have grown in ratio to the supposed increase in popularity of the Breweries. At last the Mineral Water Worm has turned, and sworn that he has been put on show once too often. An agreement was made between some of the most prominent firms to abstain from exhibiting for some years. It is this agreement that the *Mineral Water Trade Journal* urges them to abolish, and now it has received its answer, the M.W.E.A.T.P.A.'s 'Nay,' against its Yea. For at a meeting he'd at the Holborn Restaurant on December 3, the M.W.E.A.T.P.A. passed a resolution declaring the article in the *Mineral Water Trade Journal* to be an attempt to coerce the Mineral Water Engineers and others into exhibiting, pledging the members not to exhibit, and affirming their resentment at any attempt to compel them to exhibit, 'especially as they consider these oft-recurring exhibitions are a great disadvantage to the trade.' The Association further resolved that if the *Mineral Water Trade Journal* continued to support the Exhibition, they would feel it incumbent upon them to withdraw their advertisements from the *Journal*. The resolution is signed by the following firms:—Barrett & Foster, The Riley Manufacturing Company, Galloway Brothers, Dan Rylands, Limited, William Eagles, Bratby & Hinchliffe, Limited, and the Standard Essence Co. We look with interest for the December issue of the *Journal*.

THIS IS AMERICAN—He (tenderly): Do you know, dear that I have a heart affection for you? She (beamingly): Have you had it long? He (fervently): Oh, yes. I feel that I will live troubled life without you. She (softly): Then you had better asthma.



## Literary Notes.

LOVERS of the materia medica who have the good fortune to reside in India are ere long bitten by the unending fascination of that great country's traditional physic; but it is much the same with this as with other branches of Indian knowledge—it is locked up in Vedas and other learned books which few of those who are fascinated can read. Not many have, like the late Dr. Dymock, become adept in Oriental tongues, and so completely identified themselves with native customs as to give us that first-hand knowledge of Indian physic which is most interesting and instructive. Even the "Pharmacographia Indica" is in many parts labourled, in others insufficient and generally too prosy to make it a handbook for the drug-merchant or every-day pharmacist. We, therefore, welcome the second edition of Rai Kaunty Lall Dev's *Indigenous Drugs of India*,\* which was first published in 1867, and which has been extremely useful to pharmacognosists. In preparing the present edition Dr. Dey has been assisted by Mr. William Mair, one of Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet & Co.'s pharmacists, whose name is familiar to readers of this journal through his contributions. Mr. Mair has written a graphic memoir of the author as a preface to the volume, and he is responsible, we believe, for whipping the book into shape; but the information, it is obvious, is that of an observer of long experience—one who knows the country, its resources, its people, and their customs as one of themselves—because the book is written in so compact and direct a style that we can only imagine it to come from fulness of knowledge. There have been agitations at various times during the past fifty years for a more thorough trial of Indian drugs by European authorities, and none of them have been fruitful. But now there are indications that in the near future merchants will combine with scientists to utilise the vast stores of useful physic and economic vegetable products yielded by India. Already American and German merchants are on the track, and it behoves English druggists to look after what properly belongs to them. As a guide they can have nothing better than Dr. Dey's book, because it contains precise statements regarding the sources and available supplies of drugs, as well as particulars about their chemical constitution and uses. We may add that the book is excellently produced.

\* \* \*

WHILE referring to Dr. Dey's work, we may also mention that Messrs. Kemp & Co., of Bombay, have published a third edition of their *Prescriber's Pharmacopœia*. They have taken the opportunity of resetting the work, giving it a size and style of its own, and have added some new remedies and improved the therapeutic index; but the difference textually between this edition and the last one we received (in 1892) does not warrant another review. We, however, suggest that the old matter should be brought up to date—as, for instance, the information regarding ipecacuanha. Copies of the work may be obtained from the publishers' office, 84 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

\* \* \*

ONE of the most fascinating chemical books which we have read recently is Professor Ramsay's *Gases of the Atmosphere*, published by Macmillan & Co. A popular account of the discovery of argon and helium had been asked for, so Professor Ramsay goes back to the beginning of our present knowledge of the atmosphere, thus covering a period of 200 years. He describes in succession the work of Boyle, Mayow, Black, Rutherford, Cavendish, Priestley, and other great chemists, whose names are familiar as household words. We need not go into details regarding the contents of the book, because the lecture by Professor Norman Collie, which we reported in our issue of November 14, was apparently inspired by the proof-sheets of the volume. The portraits and diagrams then exhibited are contained in Professor Ramsay's volume, and we may add that we have not before read a more interesting account of how argon was isolated. As the book would make an excellent Christmas present for boys, we mention it thus briefly; and many

bigger boys, to whom chemical formulæ are still the "new notation," may spend many a pleasant hour over the volume.

## New Books.

- Barton, F. T. *Every-day Ailments of Poultry*. Long 12mo. Pp. 80. limp. 1s. (Dean's Practical Guide Books.) (Dean.)
- Bhagvat Singh Jee, Sir H. H., Thakore Saheb of Gondal. *A Short History of Aryan Medical Science*. With 10 plates. Pp. 280 (including 6 blank). Demy 8vo. 10s. 6d. (Macmillan.)
- Blount, B., and Bloxam, A. G. *Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers*. Illustrated. Vol. 2: Chemistry of Manufacturing Processes. 8vo. Pp. 496. 16s. (Griffin.)
- Braunt, W. F. *Practical Treatise on Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils: Fixed and Volatile Oils; Physical and Chemical Properties and Uses; Manner of Extracting and Refining them; Practical Rules for Testing them; Manufacture of Artificial Butter, Lubricants &c.* 2nd edit., rewritten. 302 engravings. 2 vols. Royal 8vo. Pp. 1306. 52s. 6d. (Low.)
- Braunt, W. T. (Editor). *The Metal Alloys: A Practical Guide for the Manufacture of all kinds of Alloys, Amalgams, and Solders, used by Metal-workers*. Illustrated. New, revised edition. Large 8vo. Pp. xxviii and 527. Philadelphia. (Sampson, Low & Co., London.)
- Guareschi, Professor Icilio. *Einführung in das Studium der Alkaloide; mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Vegetabilischen Alkaloide und der Ptomaine*. Authorised German translation by Dr. Hermann Kunz-Krause. Part I. Large 8vo. Pp. 304. (H. Heyfelder, Berlin.)
- Just, E. A. *Bromide Paper, Instructions for Contact Printing and Enlarging*. 8vo. Pp. 144, sewed. 1s. 6d. (Lund.)
- Lewis, J. S. *The Commercial Organisation of Factories: Handbook for Manufacturers, Directors, Auditors, Engineers, Accountants, Draughtsmen, Students, &c.* Roy. 8vo. Pp. 576. 28s. (Spon.)
- Mayhew's *Illustrated Horse Doctor: An Account of the various Diseases incident to the Equine Race; latest Mode of Treatment and Prescriptions*. 400 illustrations. New edit., rev., enlarged by J. I. Lupton. 8vo. Pp. 648. 12s. 6d. (Cazenove.)
- Muir, M. M. P. *The Story of the Chemical Elements*. 8vo. Pp. 190. 1s. (Library of Useful Stories.) (Newnes.)
- Planchon (Prof. G.) and E. Collin. *Les Drogues simples d'origine végétale*. 2nd vol. With 753 illustrations, mostly original. Price of the 2 vols. 30f. (Octave Doin, Paris.)
- Ramsay, Prof. Wm., F.R.S. *The Gases of the Atmosphere: the History of their Discovery*. With portraits. Extra cr. 8vo. 6s. net. (Macmillan.)
- Sandeman, G. *Problems of Biology*. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 220. 6s. (Sonnen-schein.)
- Saundby, R. *Lectures on Renal and Urinary Diseases*. Illustrated. 2nd ed. 8vo. Pp. 446. 10s. 6d. net. (J. Wright.)
- Scott, D. H. *An Introduction to Structural Botany*. Part 2: Flowerless Plants. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 330. 3s. 6d. (Black.)
- Shaw, C. S. Weeks. *A Text-book of Nursing*. Ed. by W. J. Radford. Intro. by Sir Dyce Duckworth. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 358. 3s. 6d. (E. Arnold.)
- Stables, G. *The Ailments of Dogs*. Long 12mo. Pp. 84, limp. 1s. (Dean's Practical Guide Books.) (Dean.)
- Zimmermann, A. *Botanical Microtechnique: A Handbook of Methods for the Preparation, &c., and Microscopical Investigation of Vegetable Structures*. Translated by J. E. Humphrey. 8vo. Pp. 308. 12s. net. (Constable.)

## Business Changes.

MESSRS. J. W. BESSELL AND H. C. STEWARD have succeeded Mr. C. J. Mellin, of the Eltham Pharmacy, 88 High Street, Eltham, Kent, and in future the business will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Steward, who will carry it on under the style of "Mellin & Co."

MR. G. W. EVANS, formerly at Mellin's French Pharmacy, Tichborne Street, has succeeded to the business lately carried on by Mr. W. Dee at 239 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith.

MR. NEWMAN SHERWOOD has ceased to represent the firm of Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co., and is now a representative of Messrs. Heaton, Squire & Francis.

MR. WM. L. EDWARDS, from J. M. Wilson & Co., Polwarth Crescent, will shortly open a pharmacy at 27 Fowler Terrace, Edinburgh.

MR. G. M. STEVENSON, chemist, Weybridge, is opening a new pharmacy at Cheshunt.

\* Published in London by W. Thacker & Co., Creed Lane, E.C.



## Marriage.

ALEXANDER—MORRISON.—At St. John's Parish Church, Edinburgh, on December 12, by the Rev. Robert Blair, D.D. Thomas Alexander, chemist, Royal Infirmary, to Elizabeth (Elsie), daughter of Malcolmson Morrison, late of Forbesfield, Aberdeen.

## Deaths.

AUSTERBERRY.—On October 17, Mr. M. T. Austerberry, chemist and druggist, Hanley. Aged 62.

BUTCHER.—Mr. George Butcher, who was known to a large section of the wholesale trade as the canvasser for Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson's Catalogue and Prices Current, died on December 15 from pneumonia following on a lung-disease. In or about the year 1869 Mr. Butcher was the proprietor of a paper called the *Druggist and Druggist*, which collapsed after about a year's existence.

HACKETT.—On December 7, at Frieston House, Gainsborough Road, Mr. Thomas Hackett, for thirty-five years managing partner, Apothecaries' Hall, Colquitt Street, Liverpool.

PHILLIPS.—On Sunday, December 6, suddenly, at Queen Street, Portsea, Mr. Thomas Phillips, chemist and druggist. Aged 53. Mr. Phillips had been in business in Queen Street, Portsea, for many years.

PLACE.—On Monday, December 7, Mary Ann, the beloved wife of James Ashworth Place, chemist and druggist, Market Place, Pickering, Yorkshire, and mother of Edward Bland Place, chemist and druggist, 417 Moseley Road, Birmingham. Aged 58 years.

SIMPSON.—On December 12, at Bradford, Mr. A. H. Simpson, chemist and druggist, of the firm of Abel & Simpson, Forfar.

WEDGE.—On December 5, Mrs. Wedge, widow of the late Mr. W. E. Wedge, chemist and druggist, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. At an inquest held last week, it was stated that Mrs. Wedge had been taking medicine from two doctors, and as she died rather suddenly the inquiry was adjourned in order that the stomach might be analysed.

## Personalities.

MR. TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF, President of the Maltine Manufacturing Company, is to be Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York.

DR. BERNARD DYER has been elected President of the Society of Public Analysts, and Mr. Charles E. Cassal has taken his place as an Hon. Secretary.

THE employes of Mr. James Townsend, medical-label printer, of Exeter, have presented a handsome silver-plated tea and coffee service to Mr. William Townsend, son of the principal, on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

MR. WILLIAM LEWES DANIEL, Merthyr Tydfil, for so many years in business as chemist and druggist at Merthyr Tydfil, and of late years the Official Receiver for the district, has been appointed President of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Federated Chambers of Trade for the ensuing year.

MR. J. E. MORRISON, F.C.S., of Montreal, one of the professors of the Montreal College of Pharmacy, and President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, has become editor of the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal* (with which the *Pharmaceutical Gazette* has been incorporated) in succession to Professor Shuttleworth, who founded the journal.

THE BRADFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE have appointed Mr. F. W. Richardson, F.C.S., F.R.M.S., as consulting and

analytical chemist to the Corporation at a salary of 200*l.* a year. The appointment is distinct from that of Mr. Rimmington under the Food and Drugs Act. Mr. Richardson had hitherto held a somewhat similar post under the Gas Department at a salary of 100*l.* per annum.

AN excellent appreciation of the veteran quinologist, Dr. J. E. de Vry, written by a pharmaceutical pupil, and therefore admirer, of the sturdy old doctor, appeared in a recent issue of *De Kroniek*, a Dutch review. Naturally, the sketch covers much the same ground as the biography of Dr. de Vry which appeared in our own columns some time ago, but some new facts are given. For instance, it is pointed out that so early as 1845, long before the late Professor Pasteur had published his first work on this subject, Dr. de Vry proved the untenableness of the theory of *generatio spontanea*, which was at the time held by an important school of biologists, and showed that only living organisms could beget life. For many years Dr. de Vry has been living at the Hague, where he spends most of his time in an attic converted into an analytical laboratory. A vast quantity of original pharmaceutical work has been done by him in this laboratory, mostly in relation to cinchona.

## Soap-bubbles.

TELL us not in mournful numbers  
Soaps are all but empty dreams,  
Not a trace of green cucumbers  
In the soap so called, it seems.

Neither buttermilk nor roses,  
Pears nor cold-cream, glycérine, tar,  
In the soaps now sold repose,  
No one knows just what they are.

Sulphur soap is minus sulphur,  
Castile soap! no cast(ile) steel there,  
Elder-flow'rs they never cull for  
Any soap, not anywhere.

No soap can ye safely deal in  
Free from dread of five-pound fines;  
Oatmeal soap there's no oatmeal in,  
No pole in Maypole reclines.

And in Brook's no stream is running,  
Monkey's not in Monkey Brand,  
And from Sunlight not all cunning  
One stray sunny beam can land.

Honey soap contains no honey,  
Arsenic soap may be a name  
But to bring in extra money—  
Such is soap, and such is fame.

Cease now useless peevish whining,  
All men trials have to bear.  
Soap-retailing is refining,  
Filthy lucre's but a snare.

Whisper low, in mem'ry fixing,  
Toilet-soaps ye yet may sell,  
For there's toil et-cetra mixing,  
Boiling, milling, wrapping well.

VERB. SAP-ONIS. (253/40.)

"THE TROUBLE WITH THIS TOOTH," said the dentist, probing it with a long, slender instrument, "is that the nerve is dying." "It seems to me, sir," groaned the victim, "you ought to treat the dying with a little more respect."

LOYALTY IN MICROSCOPES.—At a recent meeting of the Dunedin (N Zealand) Hospital Trustees, a requisition was received from the medical staff to be supplied with a microscope manufactured by a certain German firm. One of the trustees said he was a loyal subject and protested against the article being procured from Germany. He succeeded in carrying a resolution that it should be obtained from an English firm.



## Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council met at Anderton's Hotel on Wednesday, December 16. There were present Mr. John Thompson (President), Messrs. Charles Sanger, A. Tebbutt, J. W. Lee, W. A. Gilligan, Sborrock, J. E. Garratt, Fassett, E. P. Sanger, Ball, Barnes, A. Cooper, and W. S. Glyn-Jones (Secretary).

The Secretary reported that 600 retail members had joined the Association since the former Council meeting, three months ago; that during the same period the articles on the protected list had been increased from 18 to 42; that meetings had been held by local associations at Bournemouth, Halifax, Birmingham, Manchester, and Nottingham, and in each case these organisations had decided to heartily support the Association; also that the P.A.T.A. had organised a meeting of North Staffordshire chemists at Stoke-on-Trent, resulting in most of the chemists in the districts joining. In connection with the grocery-trade a most successful meeting had been held at the Grocers' Exhibition, presided over by Sir William Pirie, and another organised by the Manchester Grocers' Association and Northern Grocers' Council at the Manchester Exchange. At both it was unanimously resolved to support the movement. The growth of the Association and its work had necessitated increasing the staff, but before this was done it had been decided to form a guarantee-fund. The following firms had each guaranteed 50l.:—Barclay & Sons; Beetham & Son; Coudal Water Company; W. Edwards & Sons; Hirst, Brocke & Hirst; Lambert & Co.; Liebig's Extract of Meat Company; S. Maw, Son & Thompson; Sanger & Sons; and Sutton & Co. Mr. Johnston, of Brixton, had been giving temporary assistance, and had offered to resign his seat on the Council in order to take the position of assistant secretary. The majority of those who had signed the P.A.T.A. agreement had now signed the agreement which included all additions, thus doing away with the necessity of applying for fresh signatures whenever new articles were added to the list.

The matters mentioned in the report were discussed, and a resolution was passed requesting the Grocers' Federation to co-operate with the P.A.T.A. in organising local meetings of the grocery trade to discuss the proposals of the Association. The increase of the staff and the appointment of Mr. Johns' on were ratified.

Replies from manufacturers who are members of the Association, but who have not added their articles to the protected list, were considered, and a motion was submitted recommending that in future no proprietor should be admitted to membership who did not add the article he controlled to the list. It was pointed out, however, that many of these were in sympathy with the work, and some had the matter under consideration. An amendment deferring the exclusion of any such proprietors for twelve months was ultimately agreed to.

The Executive were instructed to make the necessary arrangements for the election of the Council for next year; also to arrange date for annual meeting. It was decided that there should be an annual dinner on the evening of the same day.

The President (Mr. John Thompson) said it was fully understood when he accepted the Presidency in October that it was only until the end of the present year, and much as he was in sympathy with the work, he felt it would be desirable to obtain as President of the Association a gentleman who would be prepared to give a good deal more time than, unfortunately, he was at present able to afford. He thought it was well the Council should be informed thus early of his intention not to seek re-election.

On the motion of Mr. Gilligan, seconded by Mr. Sborrock, it was unanimously decided that for the four quarterly meetings of the year the railway expenses of country retail members should be paid.

The Council then discussed the action of the Vogeler Company, in circularising the public of Bradford, advising them to obtain their preparations from the drug-stores, &c. [*C. & D.*, December 12 1896]. After discussion, the following resolution was carried without dissent:—

That the Council regret to notice the action taken by the Charles A. Vogeler Company in relation to the chemists of Bradford, and recommend the various local associations connected with the P.A.T.A. to convey to the firm this disapproval of the action they had taken.

This concluded the business.

### MR. DAY'S REPLY TO THE RETAILERS.

Mr. William Day, managing-director of Day's Southern Drug Company (Limited), has sent to proprietors generally a lengthy reply to the circular signed by the retail members of the Executive of the P.A.T.A., and which was published in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* November 28, 1896. Mr. Day remarks that speakers at the P.A.T.A. meetings have mentioned 50 per cent. as their profit, and their Secretary has said that, if they only get 15, 20, or 25 per cent. profit on an article, they would only take a 15, 20, or 25 per cent. interest in its sale, or words to that effect. He notes that in one case 40 per cent. upon the selling price is to be divided between wholesalers and retailers, and he asks where is this competition in offering big profits to stop? His company would regard 10 per cent. as a fair minimum profit upon articles which require neither much skill, experience, nor time to hand over to customers.

But chemists would not be satisfied with this, nor even for long with 40 or 50 per cent. At present they are anxious to get the trade in these articles, and they may now think that their new-born zeal for the interests of manufacturers will last. But what chance has any profit that manufacturers could possibly give, in face of the temptation, which would constantly arise, to sell to the customer who has confidence in the chemist a 1s. box of his own pills, for instance, which might cost him from 1d. to 3d.? The chemist is proverbially keen in looking after the pence, and when the chance of making a profit of 9d. or 10d. presents itself, it would be difficult to persuade him that he should be content with 2d. or 3d.

Referring to the question of "substitution," Mr. Day says he does not know the Mr. Milne to whom the "Retail Members" refer; he does not think he was ever in his company's employ. He does not challenge his integrity, but is sure he has been mis-reported or misunderstood. Mr. Day does not believe that Mr. Milne made 50s. in the best month he ever had by the sale of "the private preparations of the establishment sold to customers who inquired for well-known proprietary articles," or could have said he did. But if the statements were true they would prove that if  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. be so great an inducement to substitute in the case of the assistant, what an overwhelming inducement must be the 60 or 80 per cent. in the case of chemists in business for themselves. Mr. Day argues that chemists dearly love big profits, and would be always inclined to try for them. Then he says, "there is the 'personal element' to be taken into account. The public are always inclined to give more weight to the recommendations of a principal than to those of an assistant. The personal influence of the proprietor of a chemist's business is also enormously increased when he has carried on business in the same place for many years. If he be a worthy man, he receives, and rightly receives, the confidence and confidences of his customers, who not only willingly accept his advice, but convey it to their friends, especially if they think they have derived benefit from what he has recommended. Compare these conditions with those existing at a busy drug-store, where the proprietors are generally entirely unknown to the customers, and the *personnel* of the staff is continually changing."

He insists that busy stores do not to nearly the same extent push their own specialities. Then he observes that the advocates for the P.A.T.A. who sign the circular refer to an article by the Editor of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* as an "unbiased opinion" upon the matter. "Had I been anxious (Mr. Day says) to obtain an opinion on this subject from an entirely unprejudiced person, much as I respect the Editor of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, I should hardly have selected him for that purpose. If an organ of the cash-price traders was in existence, your correspondents would scarcely be prepared to accept an article on this question by its editor as an 'unbiased opinion.' Neither can I regard the judgment pronounced by Mr. Gilligan as being conclusive." Next he twits the Association that



notwithstanding all the appeals which have been made to them to subscribe "only five shillings," appeals through the organs of the trade, through the special organ of the Association, and by the eloquence of Mr. Glyn-Jones and others, at numerous meetings throughout the country, they apparently represent only about 1,600 of the 31,500 holders of licences. They do not in any way represent some 30,000 licence holders who have not joined their Association, presumably for very good reasons. They have, therefore, no right to speak for twenty-two out of twenty-three holders of patent medicine licences. As to their threats not to distribute advertising matter of preparations not on the protected list, he says: "If manufacturers depended upon chemists to do their advertising for them, I fear that the sales of their articles through advertising would soon be small indeed. We all know where the bulk of such matter, coming into the chemists' hands, goes to. True, at the present moment they are willing to promise almost anything, if you will only fix minimum prices (sufficiently high), but that sort of thing would soon die down when once they had obtained their object." Chemists cannot and will not keep such a stock of proprietary articles as they (the company) do. And when they have not an article in stock they will try to persuade the customer to take something else "as good or better." The public, Mr. Day avers, resent the sudden and considerable rise in prices, and especially are indignant at the cause of it. In this connection he mentions the 2,480 signatures to the memorial to the proprietors of Scott's pills signed by customers of his company. Finally, he mocks at the result of the strenuous and persistent efforts made, and the pressure brought to bear upon manufacturers, to induce them to put their preparations in the power of the "ring." "No one who knows anything about the comparative importance of proprietary articles could read the list of 'protected' articles without a smile. There is a moderate sale for one or two of them, for the greater part of them the demand is infinitesimal, and several of them are practically unknown in the trade." He has received assurances from a large number of manufacturers of really important articles that they have no intention of putting their preparations under the control of the P.A.T.A. He expects that manufacturers who produce articles for which a good demand actually exists will hesitate before they wantonly throw over those who have willingly kept good stocks of their preparations, and who have sold them to the public at the most moderate prices, in favour of those who have habitually discouraged their sale, and who would not long be induced to sell them by any profits that manufacturers could offer them. He is confident of ultimate success. He has by no means exhausted all the weapons in his armoury, and he trusts to have the good will of the manufacturers in his efforts to combat this "ring."

The Civil Service Supply Association have now signed the P.A.T.A. agreement.

## New Companies and Company News.

**ANGLO-BOSPHORUS OIL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on in Bristol and elsewhere the business of oil importers, refiners, and merchants and grease manufacturers and merchants. The first directors are Wm. F. Hearnshaw, Frank M. Hearnshaw, and Arthur E. Atkinson. Qualification, 50*l.*

**AMERICAN ARTIFICIAL TEETH COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, sell, buy, hire and deal in teeth, to undertake tuition in American, and other methods of mechanical dental work, and to protect the interests of dentists. E. R. Harris (whose address is not given) is the sole and managing director.

**BRAMMALL BROTHERS (LIMITED).**—Capital 30,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and take over as a going concern the business now carried on by Ellis Brammall, jun., at Old Swan, Lancs, and elsewhere, under the style of "Brammall Brothers," to enter into an agreement for the

purpose, and to manufacture, import, sell and deal in soap, candles, matches, emery, glass paper, blacklead, sanitary and disinfecting preparations, chemical products and drugs.

**A. T. HALE & Co (LIMITED).**—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (250 Founders). Objects: To acquire the business carried on as "A. T. Hale & Co.," to carry on the business of chemists, manufacturers, and agents, and to establish and conduct a sanatorium and hydropathic establishment. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—W. Uhlenburgh, 27 Kitchin Road, Ealing Dean, correspondent; A. T. Hale, 14 Broughton Road, Ealing Dean, chemist; Joseph Wass, 149 Uxbridge Road, Ealing Dean, cycle manufacturer; Thomas A. Graves, 30 Oxford Road, Ealing Dean, secretary; Edward Gardiner, Cambridge Road, Hounslow, engineer; W. W. Bright, Albany Villa, Aylesbury, engineer; A. L. Simpson, The Gables, E. Moseley, agent. Registered without articles of association.

**COLEBERD & Co. (LIMITED).**—Capital 4,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with Edward R. F. Coleberd, to take over as a going concern as from December 31, 1896, the mineral water, chemist's, stationery, tobacco, and printing business carried on by him, to open a high class drug-store at Fore Street, Sidmouth, S. Devon, or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of manufacturing and retail druggists, chemists, drysalters, oil and colourmen, mineral-water manufacturers, &c. The first subscribers are:—H. A. Gutsell, King Somborne, Hants, grocer (1 share); Mrs. H. A. Gutsell, King Somborne, Hants (1 share); Joh F. Smith, Mattisfont, near Romsey, Hants, grocer (4 shares); Miss E. M. Rowledge, Dunbridge, near Romsey, Hants (1 share); H. Rowledge, Dunbridge near Romsey, Hants (1 share); Isaac Dudley, Horsebridge Railway Station, Hants (2 shares), master; Mrs. Ida E. B. Colebe Broughton, Hants (1 share). The first subscribers are to fix the number of directors and to appoint the first. Remuneration as fixed by the company.

**DR. CHARLES ROOKE (LIMITED), SCARBOROUGH.**—The annual meeting of shareholders of this company was held on December 9, when a dividend was declared of 10 per cent. upon the preference, 5 per cent. upon the ordinary shares, and a substantial balance carried forward to next year's account.

**THE LONDON CARBONIC-ACID GAS COMPANY (LIMITED).**—This company is offered for public subscription. The total capital is 60,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares, one third of which are taken by the vendor, Mr. H. Steinem, and for the remainder applications are invited. We note that the managing directors of such important firms as Barrett's Brewery and Bottling Company and R. White & Sons have endorsed the claims of the new company by becoming directors of it, and by contracting for a supply of the gas. No doubt there is a growing demand for liquefied carbonic-acid gas for the manufacture of mineral waters and for other purposes, and we see no reason why this company should not be successful; but it does not appear from the prospectus that the vendor has anything to sell beyond his "improved process" of manufacturing, and the contracts into which he has entered, the exact value of which it is impossible to estimate.

**BOVRIL (LIMITED).**—At a meeting of this company, held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, resolutions for winding up the company voluntarily and appointing Mr. J. L. Johnson (vice-chairman), Mr. Andrew Walker (a director), and Mr. W. A. Harris (the secretary) liquidators, were passed. Lord Playfair (chairman) stated that the payment of the 2,000,000*l.* for the old company was not due until December 20. One of the conditions of the sale was that the old company should pay over the profits which were made from the end of the financial year (June 30) to November 18, or four months and eighteen days. This would give a substantial addition to the working capital of the company, and was a larger amount than they expected to obtain at this time of the year. There were only three weeks of the registered existence of the new company—from November 19 to December 9—but, comparing the business of this period with that of the corresponding three weeks of 1895, the increase of business this year had been about 68 per cent.



## Trade Reports.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., December 17.

THE trade of the year is now rapidly drawing to a close, and business has become very quiet, although there have been a few noteworthy alterations in prices, especially for fine chemicals. Atropine has been greatly increased in price by the manufacturers, and there is a prospect of a further advance. Camphor dull, both for refined and crude. In cocaine there has been a considerable drop. Chrysophanic acid is less firm, owing probably to the increased supplies of araroba. Phenacetin dull of sale; some brands are offering at extremely low prices. Tartaric acid is firmer, in sympathy with the crude material, but citric is much neglected and easier. Cinchonidin is reported scarce with a tendency towards higher rates. The position of santonine is uncertain, but an early re-arrangement of prices is not unlikely. Quinine extremely dull with an easier tendency. In heavy chemicals we have to report slightly higher rates for crude carbofic acid; crystals, however, show no upward change. Arsenic extremely firm and scarce. Cream of tartar is still advancing, both abroad and here. Prices are about 3s. higher on the week. Chlorate of potash firm and slightly dearer. Cyanide is also a little firmer. Supplies of permanganate of potash remain very scarce. Second-hand sellers remain more plentiful. Sulphur somewhat easier to-day. There seems to have been a very fair amount of business in quicksilver, in second-hand, and the market is perhaps a trifle steadier. In drugs we have to report some arrivals in cardamoms, but the article is said to be firmly held. Rhubarb is also reported selling at firm rates. Balsam tolu is tending lower, and French castor oil is a little easier at present. Menthol steady, but without noteworthy improvement. Musk extremely firmly held for fine qualities. Colombian ipecacuanha is said to have been selling at slightly improved rates. Belladonna and gentian roots are still going upwards, and for insect-flowers very steady prices are asked in Trieste. Common Persian liquorice is rather firmer. Balsam copaiba of fine quality is extremely scarce, and held for high prices. Extremely high rates were paid for fine druggists' quill cinchona-bark at the last Amsterdam auctions. Common dragon's-blood is said to have attracted attention, and for ergot of rye firm prices are asked. New-crop saffron offers somewhat more cheaply. Lemongrass and peppermint oils are firm. Star-anise oil, however, must be quoted easier; and balsam Peru offers at lower prices. In drysalteries and oils we have to report a very steady market for turmeric. Cochineal is offering more freely. Shellac, from 1s. to 2s. lower on second orange. Persian galls are extremely firm, with a better demand. Linseed oil about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. easier. Rape oil quiet, higher tendency. Olive oil extremely firmly held. Cottonseed oil is slightly lower for refined and crude. Ceylon cocoa-nut oil easier. Cochin unchanged. Palm oil unaltered. Turpentine lower at 20s. 3d. to 20s.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. for American. Petroleum flat at unchanged prices. The spice market is dull in all departments except white pepper, which is rather firmly held.

Our Hamburg correspondent wires on Thursday evening that the price of *Gentian-root* has been advanced to 55m.

per 100 kilos, for good qualities. *Camphor* is extremely dull at 2.95m. per kilo. for refined in bells. *Turpentine* also quieter at 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. per 100 kilos.

Our New York correspondent wires on Thursday afternoon that there has been a decided, though not very heavy, decline in the price of *Peppermint oils* of all varieties. *Golden-seal root* has also given way somewhat. *Mandrake-root* is scarce, and for *Blood-root* 12c. per lb. is now the rock-bottom price, that article also being in small supply. All varieties of *Copaiba balsam* are extremely scarce, the bulk of the stock having apparently been bought up. For *Pará* balsam 52c. per lb. is asked. *Vanillin* shows a weak market at \$2.75 per cz., with a declining tendency. *Cocaine* has been reduced to 25c. for hydrochlorate.

It seems likely that the drysaltery auctions, which have hitherto been held every Tuesday, will shortly be held at fortnightly intervals. The proposed alteration was casually discussed at this week's sales, and our inquiries go to show that a majority of brokers and merchants would probably be in favour of the suggested alteration. A decision will probably be arrived at early next year.

Dr. van Lingen, who has been appointed technical manager of the cinchona-factory which Mr. Massink is about to erect at Bandoeng, Java, has arrived at the place of his destination in Java. The other factory, also at Bandoeng, is quite finished. Mr. von Prehn, its technical manager, reports that samples of his quinine, sent to the Java Government Laboratory at Batavia, have been found to stand the exceedingly stringent requirements of the *Ph. Nederlandica III*.

The re-imposition of import duties in India has had the effect of increasing by 70 per cent. the number of detected infringements of the Merchandise Marks Act. The Merchandise Marks Act in India. The total number of detentions during the official year 1895-6 was 1,622, as compared with 955 in 1894-5. In Bombay the number of detentions was 918, against 352 in the previous year. In Calcutta it was about 400, in Madras 101, in Kurrachee 136. In Bombay there were only three cases of false trade-marks, one being in respect of paper, and the other two in respect of alizarine dye, in spurious brands of which a very large trade used to be done. A large consignment of bottles was landed marked "Quinine C." A sample of this "quinine" was forwarded to the Chemical Analyser to Government, and found to contain no quinine at all, but to be simply a cheap cinchona alkaloid. The contention of the manufacturers was so long as they did not actually call the article "Quinine," but only "Quinine C," no offence was committed. The plea was not entertained; but the Customs authorities allowed the fraud to pass on the payment of a penalty after an alteration had been made in the label, and no doubt it has long since passed into the bazaar as genuine quinine. A large consignment labelled "Best 100 B touch Mexican Vermilion" was found to contain no vermilion whatever. In both these instances the goods were passed on the payment of a fine instead of being confiscated and destroyed. The Japanese are the greatest offenders against the Act. Their ingenuity is mainly confined to pencils, clocks, soaps, umbrellas, and matches. "The English Pencils of the Eagle Pencil Manufacturing Company, New York," was the inscription on one large Japanese consignment. In another instance, a case of false trade description was revealed by the exporters themselves, who wrote to the Customs authorities that although they had called a consignment on the way by the name of "Belmont Sperm Candles," it did not really contain a particle of spermaceti, and they therefore asked that the articles should be assessed at the *ad valorem* rate as common candles. Perhaps the most impudent of all the contentions urged by the manufacturer of spurious goods is that of a firm which sent a large quantity of what is described as "a well-known balsam." This was proved to be a cheap substitute for the genuine balsam, but it was urged by the shippers that, as medicinally speaking, it served the same purpose as the



genuine article, there was no harm in calling it so. The parcel was allowed to pass on the payment of penalties and the alteration of the label.

**ACID (CARBOLIC)** not quite so active. *Crystals* 39° to 40° C. 7½d. to 7¾d. per lb., 34° to 35° C. 7d., possibly 6¾d. per lb. The price for *Crude* 75 per cent. is higher—viz., 2s. 6d. to 2s. 7½d., and for 60 per cent., 2s. 2d. per gallon; while *Cresylic* is quoted at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per gallon for 95 per cent.

**ACID (CHRYSOGRAPHIC).**—A short time ago 24s. was asked for good quality. At present it is offering at 16s. to 20s. per lb., according to holders.

**ACID (CITRIC).**—Very quiet and rather dull. The quotation on the spot is from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 1½d., but it is rumoured that some business has been done even below 1s. 1d. per lb. For *Concentrated juice* the quotation is 13l., f.o.b.

**ACID (TARTARIC)** is firmer in sympathy with the advance in the raw material. For *English* brands B.P., the quotation is 12½d. per lb.; and for foreign 11¾d. per lb. on the spot. Foreign acid, not guaranteed B.P., offers in 5-ton lots at 11¾d. per lb., c.i.f. terms, but it is said there is very little to be had.

**ARAROA.**—Bids of 2s. per lb. for fair, partly woody mixed quality have been refused this week. There is no change in the position.

**ARSENIC.**—Very firmly held at 23l. 10s. to 24l. for white powder, landed terms.

**ATROPINE.**—The increasing scarcity of belladonna-root has compelled the manufacturers further to advance prices by from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per oz., both for the sulphate and the pure alkaloid. The following are the present quotations compared with those that have ruled since October 15, when the last increase was declared.

	75 oz. lots.	16 to 75 oz. lots.	Smaller lots.
Sulphate B.P., present price per oz. ..	10/10	11/-	11/2
" <i>old price</i> ..	9/7	9/9	9/10
Neutral, present price per oz. ..	10/11	11/-	11/2
" <i>old price</i> ..	9/5	9/7	9/8
Pure, present price per oz. ..	13/4	13/6	13/8
" <i>old price</i> ..	12/-	12/1	12/3

It seems very probable that a further advance will be declared before long.

**BALSAM COPAIBA.**—The report that the whole of the first-hand stock of good quality has been bought up is confirmed; 2s. 9d. is mentioned as the nominal price for good thick *Maranhão*, but it is doubtful whether much could be had on the spot. This week there have been two arrivals of "balsam" (variety not stated) of 10 packages each from Savanilla and Colon. We hear that 2s. 9d. has been paid privately for Maranhão in fair wholesale lots.

**BALSAM PERU.**—Easier. It is said that 7s. 3d. has been paid on the spot lately for single-case lots, but to-day 7s. per lb. would probably be the nearest price.

**BALSAM TOLU.**—Still tending lower. The present spot quotation is 2s. 6d. per lb.

**BELLADONNA-ROOT.**—Still advancing in price. Quotations vary considerably, however, according to holder. Good to fine quality may be quoted at from 42s. 6d. to 46s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms. Fair Hungarian, however, is being offered at 38s. per cwt., c.i.f., for account of Hamburg firms.

**CAMPOR (CRUDE).**—Very dull, with a weaker tendency, but no business is reported. There are sellers of *Formosa*, December-January shipment, at 100s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms, which shows a decidedly easier market.

**CARDAMOMS.**—There have been further arrivals in not inconsiderable quantities from Colombo by the *Glaucus*, the total amounting to 122 cases. It is reported, however, that the bulk of these arrivals are no longer in the first hand, and that privately the market remains very firm, although no business is known to have taken place since the auctions.

**CINCHONA.**—Our Amsterdam correspondent, further referring to the result of last week's cinchona-auctions, states that the general tone of the sales was much better than had been experienced for some considerable time, and in spite of the large quantity offered the average unit was 225c. per

half-kilo; but rich barks realised a somewhat higher average, and were particularly well competed for. The richest parcel of *Manufacturing* bark in sale was one of 7 bales *Lodger*, representing 1012 per cent. of sulphate of quinine. It realised 27½c. per half-kilo. *Druggists'* barks were in good supply, and it was noticed that fine qualities realised abnormally high rates, more, in fact, than they have done for several years. There was also a good demand for medium and ordinary qualities and for broken quill, all of which realised an advance upon the valuations. One case of bold *Succirubra* quill, averaging 1 metre in length (287 p.c., s.q.) realised the equivalent of 2s. 3d. per lb. Another of the same analysis, but only half the length of quill, brought 1s. 9d. per lb.; and a third, also the same analysis, in ¾-metre quills, brought 1s. 9d. per lb. These are considered remarkable figures.

**CINCHONIDIN** is reported extremely scarce at higher prices—viz., 5½d. to 5¾d. per oz., according to quantity.

**COCAINE.**—On December 14 the manufacturers reduced their prices very considerably—viz., by 1s. 9d. per oz. for *Hydrochlorate* and pure alkaloid, the present quotations being as follows:—

	Under 25 oz.	25 oz.	100 oz.
Hydrochlorate ..	11s. 9d.	11s. 7d.	11s. 5d.
Pure ..	14s.	13s. 10d.	13s. 8d.

These quotations are for 25 oz. tins, 1 oz. bottles being charged 3d. per oz. extra. Delivery may be taken within three months from date of contract.

**COCHINEAL** has become much quieter. The stock has increased lately on account of rather heavy shipments, and the demand has fallen off somewhat.

**CREAM OF TARTAR** has been advancing rapidly since last week. Sales of good white crystals have been made at 77s. per cwt., f.o.b. Bordeaux. On the spot, however, the market has not quite advanced in the same proportion. For fine white *crystals* 82s. to 83s. per cwt. is asked, but we believe that less would be accepted. *Powder* is quoted to-day at 83s. to 84s. per cwt.

**DRAGONS' BLOOD.**—We understand that the inferior grades which were recently largely represented in our market have been bought up, mostly for export to the States, and that common kinds, which lately could be had at 80s., are now held for about 95s.

**ERGOT OF RYE** shows an improving tendency. There is still no good *Spanish* ergot of the 1896 crop to be had on the spot, but some is said to be offering for arrival at 9d. per lb., c.i.f. Sound 1896 *Russian* ergot offers at about 7d. per lb. on the spot.

**FENUGREEK-SEED.**—Firmly held, at 10s. 9d. per cwt. for good *Morocco*.

**GALANGAL.**—A supply of 82 bales has at last been received from Hong-Kong by the *Ceylon*.

**GALLS.**—*Persian* galls are firmly held, especially for green, which have realised up to 44s. for good quality. For good white, 42s. 6d. per cwt. has been paid. Blue are quoted at 48s. to 50s. per cwt. The first-hand stock of green and white galls is practically exhausted. *Chinese* galls are quiet; fair quality offers at 64s. per cwt. on the spot.

**GENTIAN** still shows an advancing tendency. There are few sellers, and the nearest quotation for good *French* root would probably be 27s. 6d. to 28s. per cwt., c.i.f. No good quality can be laid down on the London market below 30s. per cwt.

**GUM ACACIA.**—A fair business in *Indian* gums is reported at steady rates. Brown *Barbary* is quoted at 38s. to 39s. per cwt. for good quality, but after the large business which has taken place in this variety, there is not very much left available now. Sales of good medium white *Mogador* have recently been made at 57s., but for best descriptions of this variety the price is from 65s. to 67s. per cwt.

**INSECT-FLOWERS.**—The *Trieste* market remains extremely firm; but in London there is very little business at present.

**IPECACUANHA.**—The importers' stock of *Colombian* root has been reduced to very small proportions, but 6 bales have been received this week by the *Medway* from Colon. Dealers report that they are selling at firm prices, up to 4s. 3d. per lb., for plump, slightly damaged root.



**LIQUORICE-ROOT.**—The stock of rough *Persian* root in first hand is exhausted. Sales of common rough quality have been made at 7s. 6d. per cwt.

**MANNA** is said to be in fair demand, at steady prices, which vary greatly according to holder. Large flake in boxes and tins at 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d. per lb., f.o.b. Cases, 2s. 5d., f.o.b.; small and broken flake from 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 7d. per lb., f.o.b.; sorts, from 9½d. to 1s. 5d. per lb., f.o.b.

**MENTHOL.**—Steady. The price asked on the spot for good quality is 8s. per lb., but 7s. 9d. might buy. For arrival, importers quote 7s. 9d., c.i.f., but second-hand holders offer at about 7s. per lb., c.i.f.

**MUSK.**—A couple of cases have been received this week. The article is said to have further advanced in China. In London there is very little business doing, but very high figures are asked. It is even said that good blue skins, first-pile *Tonquin* pods would readily realise 90s. per oz. if available.

**OIL (CASTOR)** is rather weaker, so far as *French* oil is concerned, owing to larger supplies in secondhand. The quotation for first pressings is 28l. 10s., and for seconds 27l. 10s. per ton, f.o.b., while for medicinal oil, on the spot, 37s. to 37s. 6d. per cwt. is required. It is stated, however, that the position of the seed is as firm as ever, and that after the turn of the year a fresh advance may be looked for.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—*Japanese peppermint* oil is firm, at 5s. 6d. per lb. on the spot for 40 per cent. and 3s. 9d. for dementholised. *Lemongrass* oil is quoted rather firmer; business is reported at 2½d. per oz. on the spot, and 2½d. per oz. is now asked. Sales for Oct.-Dec. shipment are reported at 2½d. per oz., c.i.f., and to-day business is said to be pending at 2½d. per oz., c.i.f., for Jan.-Mar. shipment. In *Chinese* oils there is very little change. *Star-anise* is rather easier, spot supplies being available at 7s. 6d. per lb. For December shipment the quotations show a great variation. Some holders ask as much as 7s. per lb., c.i.f.; others offer at 6s. 6d. to 6s. 5d., and it is even suggested that 6s. 4d. would be accepted. *Oil of cassia* dull of sale; for 70 to 75 per cent. quality from 8s. 9d. to 9s. per lb. is asked on the spot, but that figure is somewhat nominal. The quotation for shipment for this quality is 7s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. *Citronella* oil: The spot price, both for tins and drums, is 1s. 3d. per lb. It is reported that for ordinary arrival bids of 12½d. per lb., c.i.f., have been refused, but offers of 1s. 1d., c.i.f., would be likely to lead to business, although nominally a little more money is asked.

**PHENACETIN** is said to be in a position to warrant an early advance. All the same the quotations remain extremely dull. *Bayer's* brand is still quoted officially at 14s. 3d. per lb., but it may be had in second-hand at about 10 per cent. below that figure. Other brands vary in price, the bottom quotation being 4s. 9d., possibly 4s. 6d. per lb.

**POTASH SALTS.**—*Cyanide* 98 to 100 per cent. of British make is quoted at 1s. per lb., but we hear that some business has been done a little below that figure. The market, however, has a decidedly firm tendency. *Permanganate* remains scarce and firm. The manufacturers' quotations are nominally unchanged, but they have nothing to sell on the spot. In second-hand 72s. 6d. per cwt. has been paid for small crystals this week. *Chlorate* firm. The U. Alkali Company ask 4½d. per lb.; other holders quote 4½d. per lb. f.o.b. Liverpool. In London the price is 4½d. per lb.

**QUICKSILVER.**—The importers' price is unchanged at 6l. 12s. 6d. per bottle. A fair business is reported in second-hand at 6l. 10s.

**QUINCE-SEED.**—Ten barrels of this article have been received from Lisbon by the *Bellair*. Supplies of this variety have been wanting for a long time, *Cape* quince-seed being the only kind that has been available.

**QUININE.**—The manufacturers of *Polletier's* brand announce a further decline in their quotations of 1d. per oz., vials being now offered first hand at 1s. 2d. per oz. Other makers' quotations are unaltered. In second-hand German bulk is nominally held for 9d. per oz., but lower prices would have to be taken to lead to business.

**RHUBARB.**—One of the brokers report that since the

auctions he has sold the bulk of the supply he bought in then at firm prices, up to 1s. per lb. for fair round *Canton*.

**SAFFRON** has become rather quieter, and is offering at 2s. to 3s. per lb. below the extreme quotations recently made. In Valencia itself, however, holders are still extremely firm, and the reduced quotations chiefly seem to come from French and other dealers. We quote to-day finest selected Valencia of new crop at 44s. to 46s., fair to good at 40s. to 42s. per lb.; old crop 1s. per lb. less. An official report from Spain states that the short crop of this year is partly due to the fact that a much smaller area was cultivated with saffron expressly because the growers desired to raise the prices, and also because the weather has been most unfavourable throughout the season, prolonged drought and cold nights having done much harm to the crop. As the principal consuming season is in December and January a further advance seems likely.

**SANTONIN.**—The two manufacturers who form the combination maintain their price, which is from 5s. 9½d. for 1-cwt. lots, down to 6s. per lb. for smaller wholesale quantities. Their agents say that they are not aware that any other maker has been admitted into the syndicate. Two outside manufacturers, however, undersell the syndicate-prices considerably, their bottom quotation being, as recently given by us, 5s. 2d. per lb. It seems very likely that there will be a thorough revision of prices before long.

**SCAMMONY-ROOT** has lately been sold privately at 27s. 6d. per cwt., but it is doubtful whether there would be any more available at that price. Fine *Turkish* virgin resin is not offering in first hand. Small sales of fine "skilippe" are reported at 10s. 6d. per lb.

**SHELLAC** shows a very quiet market. Some business was done on the spot in second *Orange* early in the week on the basis of 82s. cash terms for TN. At auction 582 cases were offered, but scarcely any demand was shown; only 122 cases sold at steady prices for fine second *Orange*, and from 1s. to 2s. decline on ordinary grades. Fine pale flat DC *Orange* realised 100s.; good bright free second *Orange*, 88s. to 89s.; fair red to livery seconds, 75s. to 79s. per cwt. Privately the value of TN *Orange* is now 80s. No *Garnet* or *Button* lacs were offered. For arrival the market is weak, and lower prices are expected.

**SPERMACE.**—Firmly held, at 1s. 5½d. per lb. for refined *American*, with a tendency towards higher rates.

**SPICES.**—*Black Pepper* remains very dull of sale. At auction a few parcels of good fair *Singapore* realised 2¾d., and a lot of heavy *Achin* sold without reserve at 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. For arrival the market is steady with sales of *Singapore*, January-March steamer, at 2¾d. per lb. White pepper was not offered at auction, and privately the market is firm with small sales at very steady prices. For *Singapore*, January-March steamer, 4¾d. would be paid, and for *Penang* in the same position, 3¾d. *Pimento* steady, but dull of sale. A few lots were disposed of at auction at 2½d. for fair quality. *Cochin ginger* in small supply at the sales, 321 packages were all bought in. One or two lots of lined *Japan* and *Bengal* were also bought in. *Zanzibar cloves* quiet. Ten bales fine bright realised 2¾d. per lb. at auction. For delivery the market is fairly steady at 2¾d. for January-March, while for March-May delivery there are sellers at 2¾d. per lb. *Mace* flat with an easier tendency. Two cases medium pale and red mixed wormy *Penang* sold without reserve at auction at 1s. 4d. per lb. *Nutmegs* dull and barely steady.

**STAR-ANISE.**—A sale of 200 cases genuine *Chinese*, December-January steamer, was made at the end of last week at 81s. per cwt., c.i.f. There are now sellers at 80s. per cwt. c.i.f., on the spot from 95s. to 100s. per cwt. is reported to have been paid. There is not much left in London, however.

**SULPHUR.**—Easier. Foreign flowers at 6l. 10s. *Roll* 6l. to 6l. 5s. per ton. *Recovered* sulphur is offering at from 100s. to 105s. per ton, f.o.b.; best thirds at 85s., c.i.f. terms.

**TEA.**—The tea-sales are slackening off in bulk as Christmas approaches, but the country demand is well maintained for the time of the year, and dealers are doing a steady business. Prices for lower grades are this week inclined to be a shade firmer, but in view of the heavy sales with which the New Year will commence, there is not much reason for



anticipating any very marked recovery in quotations of tea for price. Medium grades, from 7d. to 10d., are more likely to show an advance, as these are, relatively to common tea, less plentiful, and have been very cheap.

**TURMERIC.**—Steady, but quiet, with sales of fair to fine bright Madras finger at 10s. to 13s. per cwt.; for fair to good Bengal from 8s. 6d. to 9s. is asked.

**WAX (JAPAN).**—Sales of good pale squares have been made at 49s. per cwt. on the spot.

#### The Market in Heavy Chemicals.

The quieter tendency lately noted in the condition of the heavy-chemical market continues, and in all probability business from now to the end of the year will only be of a hand-to-mouth character, as buyers show a disinclination to increase their stocks to any degree just at present. Prices, however, on the whole, keep steady, and are fairly well maintained. *Sulphate of ammonia* steady: Beckton terms, 7l 7s 6d.; Hull, 7l 7s. 6d. to 7l 8s. 9d.; Leith, 7l 7s. 6d.; London, 7l 10s. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 356 tons. *Benzols* dull and quoted lower, 90-per-cent, prompt, 2s. 10d.; January-March delivery, 2s. 9d.; 50-per-cent, prompt 2s. 6d.; January-March delivery, 2s 6d. *Sulphate of copper* firm and without material alteration in value. *Recovered sulphur* continues in request at late rates. *Bleaching-powder* steady and, if anything, in rather heavier demand. *Caustic soda* unaltered. *Hyposulphite of soda* moving steadily. *Alum and Sulphate of alumina* of best qualities firm and in moderate request. *South Durham Salt* steady. *Carbolic acids* in demand. *Chlorate of potash* firmer and a trifle higher, 4½d. to 4¾d. *Chlorate of soda* unchanged at 5d. *Yellow Prussiate of potash* quiet. *Bichromates of potash and soda* steady. *Barium products* all round are firm, the chloride and manufactured carbonate especially being in brisker request. *Silicates of soda* selling freely. *Green copperas* firm. *White powdered Arsenic* firm and scarce. *Sal ammoniac* not quite so active. *Linseed and Cottonseed-cakes* quiet and downward tendency. *Sulphocyanides* rather slow of sale at late prices.

#### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on December 16, reports that there is little or no business of importance passing, buyers, in view of the nearness of the end of the year, being disposed to take only limited quantities. *Castor oil* is steady at the late rates, Calcutta good seconds being still held for 3¾d., though this price might be shaded for near arrival lots. Fir st-pressure French is moving slowly at 3½d to 3¾d per lb., and Madras good seconds are the same value. In *Acacia gums* *Soudan sorts* rule very idle, there being a continued indisposition to do business, and, although prices are nominally unchanged, lower rates seem inevitable if a better demand is to be encouraged. Medium qualities are quiet, with no special feature to notice. Of *African ginger* sales have been made at 21s. 6d. per cwt., at which price the drug is very firm. Fifteen bags good *Guinea grains* sold at 19s. per cwt. About 8 tons of *Kola nuts* were sold at and after auction at prices varying from 3½d. to 3¾d per lb. for good sound dry African. Prime white *Spermacei* has been selling during the week at 1s. 5d. per lb, but holders on the spot are talking of more money. Some business has been passing in *Canaryseed* at 28s. 6d. per quarter for good bright Turkish, and more is available at the price. In *Beeswax*, 45 packages of Sierra Leone have found buyers at 5l. 15s.; *Gambia* is held for 6l. 5s.; and *Chilian* is firm at late rates. *Honey*—a parcel has arrived from Utah, and holders talk of 42s. 6d. per cwt. *Cream of Tartar* is much better, and holders of first white now want 85s. to 86s. per cwt.

#### The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes on December 15:—"A great number of the dock labourers are still on strike, and consequently business continues very quiet. The changes in our drug-market are very few since last week. *Japanese isinglass* (Agar-agar) is again a shade easier, and can be bought to-day at 265m. per 100 kilos. *Acid (tartaric)* is flat, at 220m. per 100 kilos. *Balsam copaiba* is unchanged, firm at 295 to 300m. per 100 kilos. for genuine Maracaibo. *Balsam Peru* quiet, at 16½m. per kilo. *Balsam Tolu* dull,

and obtainable to day at 5½m. per kilo. *Cantharides* are quiet, prime Russian at 4.10m. to 4.20m. per kilo. *Curacao aloe* 28m. to 30m. per 100 kilos. *Cassia lignea* firm; 65m. per 100 kilos, is asked for new crop. *Coca-leaves* dull; some sales of Bolivian leaves have been effected at 120m. to 130m. per 100 kilos. *Camphor* is neglected; the refiners still ask 325m. per 100 kilos., while there are secondhand sellers at 300m. to 295m. *Ergot of rye* unchanged, at 95m. to 100m. per 100 kilos. *Menthol* keeps very firm; spot is quoted at 19m. to 20m. per kilo. *Galangal* shows signs of improvement; market firm at 44m. to 46m. per 100 kilos. *Gentian root* is also firmer, at 55m. per 100 kilos. *Cod liver oil* quiet, with very small demand; 1836 non-congealing oil is quoted at 140m. per barrel. *Star-anise oil* is a little firmer, at 18m. to 18½m. per kilo. *Peppermint oil* quiet; HGH at 7½m., Todd at 7¼m. per lb. *Anise-seed (Russian)* is steady, at 29m. to 30m. per 100 kilos. *Cumin-seed (Malta)* is a little firmer, at 43m. to 45m. per 100 kilos. *Star-anise seed* is offering lower; new arrivals have depressed prices; to day's quotation is 190m. to 195m. per 100 kilos. *Japan wax* is quiet, at 90m. per 100 kilos. for spot delivery, and 87m. for shipment. *Spirits of turpentine* quiet, at 42½m. per 100 kilos. delivered ex store here. *Castor oil* is a little easier, with a decreasing demand, at 61m. per 100 kilos. in barrels."

#### The Smyrna and Constantinople Opium Markets.

We hear from Constantinople under date of December 10:—"After the scare consequent on drought rumours (followed almost immediately after by rain), there was a slight relapse, which underwent another change when about ten days ago severe weather in the shape of hard frost came immediately on the top of warm weather and rain, and prices were once again given an impulse upwards, marking a rise of 10 per cent. on the lowest point touched during October. The late heavy buying for London and American account tends to keep the market firm at 8s 8d. to 8s. 9d., f.o.b., for druggist grades. Soft-shipping qualities have also shared in the upward move, and there have been considerable sales at up to 9s. 10d., f.o.b., for stuff containing 60 to 70 per cent. of firsts. The future of the article depends on the progress of the crop, but, owing to low stocks all round, there can be no serious decline until well into next year, and this only if prospects of crop are really good. Needless to add there would be a very sharp rise if sowings were in any way harmed by adverse weather. The stock here is about 930 cases." Our Smyrna correspondent writes on December 5:—"We have had very severe frost, which, as a rule, never sets in before January, by which time snow generally covers the young opium-plants. As yet, however, no snow has fallen in the interior, and the young, tender plants sown in September and October are reported destroyed. Our holders, seeing this, kept aloof. American buyers, however, consented to pay 2d. per lb. extra, but before securing 60 to 70 cases speculators came forward, and, at a further 1d. per lb. advance, bought up all other stuff offering, bringing up the number of our week's sales to about 100 cases. After that our dealers retired from the market, and our nominal quotations to-day (with very little stuff available) are 8s. 10d. for current and 9s. to 9s. 2d. for selected and other better qualities. We expect a further rise when the news of frost is confirmed and further speculation sets in. In any case we cannot have hopes of lower prices for a long time."

#### THE PRODUCE-BROKERS' ASSOCIATION'S FORWARD-CONTRACTS.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the General Produce Brokers Association was held on Monday at the Commercial Sale-rooms, Mincing Lane, for the purpose of "altering Rule VII., and other clauses endorsed on the Arrival and Delivery Contracts, relative to arbitrations and appeals." Mr. Andrew Devitt, President of the Association, was in the chair, and among those attending (about twenty) were Messrs. G. Marshall, H. W. Price, G. Benton, R. Dalton, C. Young, W. W. Green, Samuel Figgis, Charles Christie, and E. Barber. The Chairman said that the meeting was the outcome of certain arbitration cases in which parties had refused to be bound by the decision of the Court of Appeal appointed by the General Produce Brokers' Association. The



committee, with the assistance of a legal adviser, had drafted a new clause, which would bring their contracts in harmony with the law of the land. This necessitated certain alterations in some of the clauses of their arrival-contracts. A short discussion ensued on the proposed alterations, but these, as ultimately adopted, differed in no material respect from the modifications proposed by the Committee.

Rule VII. of the Association was entirely overhauled, and now reads as follows:—

The committee shall have power, when called upon, to settle matters in dispute between members of the Association in connection with their business transactions.

The following regulations shall apply to all references to arbitration under the rules of the Association:—

(a) Each disputant shall appoint a disinterested broker, who must be a member of the Association, as arbitrator. If one disputant shall neglect to appoint an arbitrator within forty-eight hours after notice in writing received from the other disputant of the appointment of arbitrator made by him, the acting President shall appoint the other arbitrator.

(b) Such arbitrators shall, before entering on the arbitration, appoint another member of the Association as umpire, and in the event of the arbitrators being unable to agree upon an award they shall refer the dispute to the umpire. If the arbitrator shall neglect to appoint an umpire within seven days from their appointment the acting President shall appoint an umpire.

(c) The award of such arbitrators or umpire (as the case may be) shall be final and binding on the parties unless within three clear days after notice of the award an appeal, with a fee of 5*l.*, be lodged with the Secretary of the Association by either disputant.

(d) Any appeal shall be decided by the committee of the Association, or in the discretion of the committee, by a Council of Appeal, to be nominated for the purpose by the acting President, consisting of not less than three, nor more than five members of the Association. At least forty-eight hours notice of bearing of the appeal shall be given by the Secretary to the disputants and to the arbitrators and umpire (if any) whose award is appealed against, and they and the authorised representatives of the disputants shall be at liberty to be present and state their views on the matter in dispute. The decision of a majority of the members present (not being less than three in number), forming the committee or Council of Appeal, shall be deemed to be the decision of the committee or Council of Appeal, and their award shall be signed on their behalf by the acting President, and shall be final and binding in all respects.

(e) The fees for arbitration or appeal and award shall be paid by the losing party, unless otherwise awarded.

This matter having been settled, the Chairman said that the Association forms had been used by continental merchants through produce-brokers in this country, and it had become a matter of complaint that, when disputes arose under such contracts, the parties referred the matter to London to be arbitrated upon by persons entitled to use their Association form, which had gained for itself a good character on the Continent. The disputants thereby obtained the benefit of the G.P.B.A. assistance without having paid a brokerage. Such a course was against the rules of the Association, and inimical to their very existence as an Association. He thought the resolution to be proposed by Mr. Price would be carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry Price proposed, and Mr. W. W. Green seconded—

That, it having come to the knowledge of the G.P.B.A. that their printed arbitration-forms have been used on contracts not made by its members, the Association desires to state that such a practice is contrary to its rules.

Mr. Dalton thought that the resolution was too mild, and that a more drastic phrasing was called for. He proposed that the words "and is hereby strictly prohibited" be added. The resolution, thus amended, was carried *nem. con.*

It was decided that the new rules should come into operation on January 1, 1897, and the meeting broke up with the usual vote of thanks.

Mr. W. W. Green writes from 25, Mincing Lane:—"With reference to Mr. Dalton's amendment, which I seconded, I would like to say that I took that course because the wording of the original resolution was, in my opinion, hardly strong enough. I think that the time has come when any member infringing the rules of the Association, or acting contrary to its recommendations, should be requested to retire from the Association. It might be wise to discuss presently whether Association brokers should refuse to arbitrate upon any contracts made by merchants direct to buyers."



#### The Purity-tests for Otto of Rose.

SIR,—The great importance to many of your readers of a right appreciation of this question will, I hope, be sufficient excuse for my venturing to ask that you will give me space to reply to Mr. M. Conroy's remarks in your issue of December 12.

One thing comes out clearly, I think, in Mr. Conroy's communication. That gentleman has been experimenting, not with Turkish geranium, the usual adulterant of otto of rose, but with French geranium. Now, the latter oil is not employed for the purpose by the adulterators, for the sufficient reason that its powerful and distinctive odour would readily reveal itself to the sense of smell if added to otto in any profitable proportion. Mr. Conroy's "circumvention" of the optical-rotation test is therefore to no purpose, for his method would be exposed by the nasal test.

Again, leaving his own French geranium and taking up my Turkish geranium—the oil which has been found by experienced adulterators to be the most suitable of all—Mr. Conroy presents us with figures which show that 31.5 per cent. of Turkish geranium can be added to otto without throwing the optical rotation of the mixture outside my purity limits. But surely Mr. Conroy must perceive that the addition of anything like this percentage would be at once revealed by the nasal test? And this quite apart from the question of its disturbance of the other physical tests. As a fact, a very much smaller percentage of added Turkish geranium is readily appreciated by its odour by anyone at all accustomed to the work.

The value, if any there be, of the physical tests lies, of course, in their use to detect adulterations not appreciable to the sense of smell, as well as in their confirmation of this sense's suspicions in doubtful cases. But whether these tests really possess any such value cannot be determined by Mr. Conroy's methods. With all due deference to that gentleman, I venture to think that he has not quite fully borne in mind the "intimate interdependence" of all the tests as referred to in my previous communication. The relationship of the results of such tests is of the very essence of the whole inquiry, and before Mr. Conroy can safely assert that the tests are "practically useless," he must demonstrate that he can "circumvent" any one of them without disclosing the fact through either one or both of the remaining physical tests, or through the nasal test.

I would suggest, therefore, that Mr. Conroy should place himself upon safe ground in the following manner:—Let him take a sample of the purest otto of rose he can lay his hands upon, adulterate it with any percentage of any oil he may think fit, and then

- determine by the nasal test if any difference in odour is appreciable;
- determine its angle of rotation in a 100 mm. tube at 30° C.;
- determine its temperature point of crystallisation;
- determine its specific gravity at 30° C.

Supposing that the test *a* does not reveal the adulteration, it will then be exceedingly interesting and instructive to note whether tests *b*, *c*, and *d* give results which are not only within purity ranges, but which hold the same relationship to each other as do purity results.

As I have been at some pains to procure through independent non-commercial sources a number of what I am at present pleased to regard as purity standards of otto of rose, it may help Mr. Conroy and other investigators if I give here the following ranges of the results of my examination of them under the conditions above specified, viz.:—

Specific gravity	..	..	8550 to 8586
Point of crystallisation	..	..	17.4° C. to 22.2° C.
Specific rotatory power	..	..	-2.878 to -4.081
Angle of rotation	..	..	-2° 30' to -3° 30'

The wide ranges here indicated will show that my own



experience forbids me to dogmatise, or, indeed, to affirm, anything very definitely as to the value of these tests. Though much work has been done in connection with them, much more, I think, remains before us; I think we can all admit that as yet we know but little and have much to learn. But to this end I think we should not lightly cast aside as "practically useless" any methods which, while they have undoubtedly an important bearing upon the question, have not yet, so far as I am aware, been proved to be without value.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,  
24 Old Bond Street, London, EUGENE V. BARRETT.  
December 14.

#### St. Jacobs Oil and the Trade.

SIR,—I have read your comment on the correspondence which has passed between the Bradford and District Chemists' Association and ourselves, and suggest that your criticisms on my action are not warranted. I have to point out to you that our action in this case applied only to the Bradford and District Chemists' Association. Had their letter not been accompanied with a threat, we should have acted on quite different lines, but we hold that no dealer, or association of dealers, has a right to dictate to us as to whether or not our goods will sell because they propose to boycott same. As to your statement that we have insulted the chemists, there is nothing in our letter which could even suggest such a broad statement as you see fit to make. We claim that the chemist who substitutes another preparation when our goods are called for is unprincipled; evidently you think otherwise.

As to our statement being libellous, we are quite prepared to plead justification, should an action be brought, but please note that our remarks only apply, up to the present writing, to the Bradford and District Association. The great body of chemists, with whom we have had pleasant business relations for the past fourteen years, are on the most friendly terms with us, and as to placing our preparations on the "protected list," we are willing to consider that proposition when we are satisfied that the majority of dealers who buy the larger quantity of Vogeler's Curative Compound wish us to attempt to regulate the price of these specialities after they leave our hands. We shall be pleased to consider any suggestion which the said majority may make, but until that time we are unable to take any steps in the matter.

Yours very truly,

p.p. THE CHARLES A. VOGELER COMPANY,  
December 14. WILLIAM E. GEDDES, Manager.

#### Day's Memorial and Scott's Pills.

SIR,—We see by your issue of December 12 that Day's Drug Company have informed you that they have despatched a memorial to us signed by 2,480 purchasers of our medicine. We received a packet marked "By Parcels Post—Fragile." Why "fragile"? we thought. On opening, we understood, for Day's had cut off the whole of the addresses, thus rendering the memorial useless. We can only verify the *bona fides* of those who signed by appealing to them through the local press to send their addresses. This we propose to do. If Day's believe in their memorial, why detach the addresses which the public gave? Will the public like this sort of thing? Perhaps you, with your experience, can tell. Thanking you for publishing this,

We remain, yours truly obliged,  
173 Seymour Place, London, W., W. LAMBERT & Co.  
December 14.

#### Chemists and Proprietary Articles.

SIR,—I notice the action of St. Jacobs Oil Company in regard to the Bradford chemists. The affair has brought to my mind a remark which fell from one of your correspondents, which I think received too little attention. He threw out a hint that chemists might do with patents what C.A.M.W.A.L. has been doing with waters. This, I think, is an idea worth following up. There has been created amongst the public a demand for put-up articles which is likely to exist for some time, whether we consider it dignified and scientific or not. We must live by our profession, so we may as well exercise our knowledge and skill in placing such articles

upon the market ourselves. I suggest that a syndicate be formed, with a good large capital, for manufacturing chemists' proprietaries; that only registered chemists be eligible for membership, and that only members be served with goods; that all profits after paying working expenses be placed at what I would call the advertising bureau; that all sorts of patents be put up under some such name as "Association medicines," and that it be made quite clear that they are prepared only by chemists, and sold only by chemists. For the first year or two it might be necessary to ask members for a subscription to the advertising bureau over and above the membership subscription, but I think enough money would be made to admit of extensive advertising in a year or two. Of course the terms to chemists would be 1s. 1<sup>d.</sup> articles for 8s. per doz., or 8s. 6<sup>d.</sup> at most, and full price would be charged in every case. Chemists would then cease to keep any but Association patents, and I have no doubt of the ultimate result. I never had much faith in the anti-cutting Association, and it is quite clear that manufacturers mean to force up wholesale prices in exact proportion to the rise in retail prices. The St. Jacobs Oil manifesto practically means that they admit we have reached a fork in the road. We have nothing to fear from this. Time will tell whether they are in a like condition. I do not know anything about Mr. Geddes, but, so far as principle goes, I have no hesitation in saying that men who have qualified themselves according to the demands of the State for the discharge of certain important duties are not likely to compare unfavourably, in this respect, with hundreds who are at the present day making large fortunes out of quack medicines. I congratulate the chemists of Bradford upon their spirit, and leave this point of "principle" in their hands, trusting that they will know how to act. Who shall say that because a man recommends an article, the composition of which he knows, rather than an article of which he knows nothing, he is doing so with the sole object of gain. It appears to me that this arsenical-soap case proves that we have some sort of right to know what ingredients are put in preparations, for the composition of which we are held responsible at law, and that our refusal to undertake such responsibility blindly cannot fairly be set down to lack of principle.

Dumfries.

JAMES REID.

SIR,—Again Mr. Jones retires behind an inky cloud, and his agreement remains shrouded in mystery. He has said that doubtless many people have signed his agreement who strongly objected to it, and he is, apparently, prepared to continue his policy of coercion; but he refuses to say whether his agreement is considered by its own promoters to be legally binding, or absolutely worthless; whether it commits its signatories to more or less than it expresses, or whether it is a life-long bond, or revocable at will. He may well seek some excuse for not answering any inquiries upon these points, as any answer he might give must convict him of inconsistency, and brand the proceedings of his Association as arbitrary, fickle, and unjust. Does he suppose that an "unmitigated and irresponsible tyranny" can long prosper in England? Its want of success, so far, must be exceedingly galling to its promoters, and its utter failure cannot now be long delayed. That is my belief, and time will tell whether I am right or not.

What does Mr. Jones mean by saying that I was "checkmated"? Checkmate comes at the end of the game, and we shall see who is checkmated then. As to the circumstances referred to, I was quite aware at the beginning of October that a "large addition" was to be made to the "protected" list on the 20th of that month; Mr. Jones himself had publicly announced the fact. It would have been quite easy to have delayed the publication of our appeal to the public for a few days, and to have stocked these articles fully, had I chosen to do so. How, then, did he checkmate me? As I anticipated, the mountain in labour brought forth a mouse, and the 'cuteness, which Mr. Jones prides himself upon, was not well rewarded.

What does Mr. Jones think of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association deciding not to support the P.A.T.A.? The hard-headed chemists of the second city in the kingdom do not believe that the P.A.T.A. can procure for them any advantages which cannot be better obtained by other means, and Mr. Jones cannot pretend that



manufacturers of proprietary articles have been eager to participate in the benefits which, Mr. Jones would fain persuade them, are to be derived from submitting their articles to the control of the "ring." The belief is evidently gaining ground that this "universal remedy," like so many others, is a delusion and a snare, and that the hope that it would benefit anybody, except perhaps its officers, must be abandoned.

The great majority of traders are willing, as we have always been, to come to friendly arrangements with manufacturers as to the retail prices to be charged for their goods, but most Englishmen object, as we do, to the establishment of "rings" to "corner" goods, especially when their promoters act in such a tyrannical and arbitrary fashion as the P.A.T.A. has done. I am, Sir, yours truly,

St. Lawrence Road, Southampton, WILLIAM DAY.  
December 15.

SIR,—Mr. Jesse Boot, in his letter in the *C. & D.* of November 28, repudiates Mr. Glyn-Jones's insinuation of a previous date that "some of the company's branches must be in a very bad way," and himself asserts that "they can not have a number of unremunerative branches." I have for over twenty years watched with interest the initiation and development of the three large establishments at Nottingham, now the property of Boots (Limited), and it would be doing scant justice to the tact and business acumen of the conductors of the same to infer that the outcome of profits realised by these three premises combined, employing, as I understand they do, between 300 and 400 hands at least, should not account for fully one-half of the sum total of the net profits of the "whole returns," as published in your synopsis of their balance-sheet on Friday last.

Surely, 5500% could not be considered as too great a margin to be credited to the efforts of these three "colossal" depôts, and that being presumably allowed, the remaining half (another 5500%) of the profits has to be appropriated to the earnings of the sixty branches.

This shows us, therefore, that the said branches yield a net profit income of "less" than 100% a year each, and are a sufficiently satisfactory rejoinder to Mr. Jones's challenge that "they are in a bad way."

I should be sorry to think, and unwilling to believe, that more than an average of one in every hundred of chemists' businesses throughout England and Wales would show such a miserable ratio of profits; and I cannot but congratulate the brethren of the "craft," far and near, that they have small reason to envy the results of the "store trade," as exemplified in the last balance-sheet of this firm.

I am, yours,  
M. P. S. (239/62.)

#### Liq. Arsenici Hydrochloricus.

Mr. J. Rutherford Hill (Edinburgh) writes in regard to his statement about the colouring of liq. arsenici hydrochlor. (*C. & D.* December 5, page 817), that he was careful to point out at the time (although the explanation was not reported) that by section 5 of the Arsenic Act, liq. arsenici hydrochlor. is exempt from the regulation respecting colouring when it "forms part of any medicine to be made up or compounded according to the prescription of a qualified medical practitioner or a member of the medical profession." His reply applied only to the sale of the solution otherwise than by prescription, and he maintains that it is quite correct, with which we agree.

#### Christmas boxes.

SIR,—The strong speech of Sir Edward Fry and the scathing words in which he denounced the asking of bribes or gratuities on the part of employers should be borne in mind at this season, when so many applications for gifts in money or in kind are asked for by parties styling themselves managers, warehousemen, and the like. Sir Edward's words should assist those applied to in dealing with such asking.

Yours truly,  
MERCHANT. (257/60)

#### Irish Pharmaceutical Affairs.

SIR,—In last week's issue of your journal we notice some remarks made by Mr. Beggs at the monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, which, by their extreme inaccuracy, and coming from such a source, demand a word of explanation. The resignation of some gentlemen from the membership of the Pharmaceutical Society seems to be the ground upon which Mr. Beggs based his statements. His remarks, as applied to Mr. Turner (who is a member of the Assistants' Association), were answered by the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, and therefore need no comment from us. With regard to the other two gentlemen, we beg to state that they are not, nor have they ever been, members of the Association. At the same time, we might point out that many of our members are also members of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Beggs further asserts that "members of the Association were speaking harshly of the Society." We think the accuracy of this statement might be put on a par with his previous remarks. The Assistants' Association has at all times endeavoured to promote and foster more cordial relations between its members and the Pharmaceutical Society. We are, therefore, at a loss to account for the ungenerous and groundless assertions of Mr. Beggs. At present we are charged by our committee to convey to the President and Council of the Pharmaceutical Society a vote of thanks for the use of the room in their house, as well as the generous support rendered by them to the Association during the past session. This vote was passed at a meeting of the committee on November 27, and was consequently late for the meeting of the Council above referred to. The committee are also completing arrangements to offer two prize medals to the Pharmaceutical Society, which shall be awarded to the most meritorious of the successful students at the Society's examinations.

We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully.

DAVID O'SULLIVAN, L.P.S.I.,  
Honorary Secretary,  
HENRY HUNT, L.P.S.I.,  
Assistant Hon. Secretary.

2 Lower Mount Pleasant Avenue, Rathmines,  
Dublin, December 12.

#### "Truth" and the Pharmaceutical Societies.

SIR,—I observe that the action of the Irish Council has your approval. To my mind it is decidedly puerile. It would have been more dignified for an august body like the Irish Pharmaceutical Council to have accepted Mr. Bremridge's personal denial, even if not quite so explicit as could have been desired; especially as their own President had foolishly followed in the footsteps of *Truth's* informant, by making comparisons between the examinations of the two Societies. Assuming that the version of the affair as it originally appeared was accurate, it amounts to this, that some irresponsible clerk gave an incorrect—and to some extent discourteous—explanation of the reason why the Irish qualification was not recognised in England. I am in no way, except as a licentiate, connected with the British Society, and am not called upon to act as its champion, but I cannot see how these comparisons are so odious when made by an English clerk if they are commendable when made by an Irish Pharmaceutical President.

December 12. SCOTSMAN. (253/3.)

#### DISPENSING NOTES.

##### A Montrose Prescription.

A common prescription here is—

Acid. sulph. aromat. .. ..	℥iv.
Spt. ammon. aromat. .. ..	℥iv.
Liq. strychnie .. ..	℥iss.
Quin. sulph. .. ..	gr. xx.
Inf. calumb. ad .. ..	℥viij.

How should it be dispensed?  
Montrose, November 11.

Yours truly,  
J. G. NICHOLSON.



## Resorcin Reaction.

SIR,—I should be obliged if you could explain what causes the darkening in a mixture made from this prescription, and if it can be prevented:—

Resorcin .. .. .	5j.
Spt. amm. arom. .. .. .	5ij.
Syr. aurant. .. .. .	5ij.
Aq. ad .. .. .	5iij.
M. ft. mist.	

Yours sincerely,  
DISPENSER. (218/22)

[The ammonia is the cause of the trouble. Resorcin is, in this respect, like hydroquinone and similar bodies. There is no way of preventing the coloration if the prescription is dispensed as written.]

239/33. *North Pole*.—When such an expression as "Fiat pil. ij." occurs in a prescription it means that the quantities of ingredients ordered are to be massed and divided into two pills.

## LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and THE CHEMIST'S AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

240/50. *Lancastrian*.—We do not think any intelligent magistrate would convict under the Merchandise Marks Act because you supplied some spirit of nitre in a mineral-water bottle brought to you by a customer, and with the name of someone else moulded on the bottle. It has been held in the High Court, however, that it is not necessary to prove intent to defraud in order to obtain a conviction, and the words of the Act are very wide; so that it is prudent to refuse to supply anything in a bottle (other than a dispensing flat) having someone else's name indelibly engraved or moulded on it.

240/36. *Dens*.—Neither salt of lemon nor syr. rhæodios nor corn-paint such as you describe is a scheduled poison. Bunter's nervine, we were lately informed, contains no scheduled poison. Sheep-dips containing arsenic come under the Act, so do homœopathic medicines which contain any scheduled poison.

241/73. *C. W. B.*—When a widow (as executrix) carries on the business of her late husband it is not necessary that the name of the qualified manager should appear on the labels. The name under which the business is carried on should appear on poison-labels.

247/20. *Fortuna*.—We cannot give an opinion as to the value of your business. Its market value is what it will fetch, and there can be no rule for calculating this. It all depends on circumstances which we cannot know. For example, it may be a rising or it may be a falling business; it may be a very personal connection, and so on. You had much better consult an experienced valuer.

241/41. *Dento*.—A company must have its name painted or affixed in a conspicuous position, in letters easily legible, on the outside of every office or place wherein it carries on business. This name must include the word "Limited" as the last word. "Ltd." or even "Ld." are often used when space is a consideration. We do not know of any formal authorisation of this abbreviation, but we have never heard of it being objected to.

245/29. *J. S.*—Smith's headache-powders would be liable to medicine-stamp duty unless they are a single drug, because a proprietary right is claimed by the title. You should get Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty" (2s 6d.) through your wholesale house, as you evidently are not clear about the law.

244/16. *R.*—Of course it is legal for a licensed person (if he is a registered chemist and druggist) to sell Fellows's syrup duly stamped. We do not see the point of your question. You, too, had better get Alpe's "Handy-book."

248/37. *Erox*.—The Brentford Magistrates, as reported last week, have decided that arsenical scap is a drug. This is the decision appealed against. You should note, however, that if the appeal should succeed, it is possible that a conviction might be obtained under the Merchandise Marks Act.

248/49. *Galen*.—A 50s. wine off-licence covers the sale of British wines.

248/21. *Antikamnia*.—The Irish licence is accepted in most of the colonies. See the Calendar of the P.S.I., 1895, page 163.

247/40. *Xmas*.—We should regard the cocoa you name as a food, and not as a medicine. If it is such it would not be liable to stamp-duty.

251/7. *Caustic*.—The case of the Apothecaries' Society v. Shepperley was fully reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, November 15 and December 14, 1878.

248/57. *Dick*.—It would be impossible to advise properly without seeing the exact wording of the proposed agreement. It is, however, quite clear that unless all the difficulties suggested are provided for in the agreement, A and B, the landlords, will be entitled to their pound of flesh, notwithstanding that C and D's difficulties may arise from causes beyond their own control. It would be in the highest degree imprudent to enter upon a contract for 100 years without the assistance of an experienced solicitor.

255/2. *Curious*.—P makes A his special agent in a certain town. B in the same town obtains the same goods from one of P's agents elsewhere and sells them, and advertises that he is prepared to sell them. Can A or P prevent B from selling them? [No. They can only prevent B making any false representation in regard to the goods.]

250/73. *Coca*.—It is a common law misdemeanour and punishable on indictment to print or publish or expose for sale any indecent writing or print, and it was on this ground, we believe, that Mr. Bradlaugh was indicted with respect to a very similar matter. Sending any indecent matter through the post is punishable by a fine of 10*l.*, under 47 and 48 Victoria, cap. 76, sec. 4. Under the Indecent Advertisements Act it is an offence to deliver, or attempt to deliver, any printed or written matter of an obscene or indecent nature to any inhabitant. Of course it is a question for the jury whether the label and circular sent are obscene or indecent. We have never heard of any attempt to stop the sale of the goods themselves unaccompanied by any advertisement.

253/47. *Nomen*.—Salt of lemon is not a scheduled poison. The sale of any mixture, ointment, powder, &c., containing an appreciable quantity of a scheduled poison appears, by High Court decisions, to be sale of such poison. We cannot state how much morphia to the ounce would be regarded by a Court as not sufficient to bring the mixture within the meaning of the Act. Phosphor paste, as usually made, does not come within the scope of the Pharmacy Act.

254/23. *Lex*.—It is legal for a medical practitioner to carry on business as a chemist and druggist and sell poisons. The executors of a deceased chemist and druggist may carry on the business with an unqualified assistant, provided they do not keep open shop for the sale of poisons, or take, use, or exhibit in any way the title of chemist and druggist.



## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

*N.B.*—All queries should be accompanied by the business card of a subscriber or the address label from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST wrapper. We destroy anonymous letters. We do not answer queries of the kind here dealt with by post. We ask that separate queries shall be written on separate sheets of paper.

No SAMPLES will be analysed and reported upon unless the sender labels the sample with his name and the name of the article, and informs us (not necessarily for publication) by whom the article is made, for what purpose and how it is used, and any further particulars of interest. We do not undertake analyses which are of interest solely to senders of samples.

Back numbers containing formulæ, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher, and so long as these are obtainable we cannot reprint replies.

239/36. *G. B. S.*—We think you can obtain the boxes and cases which you require from those who advertise in our DIARY. Please write to them, and if you cannot get what you want we will make inquiry.

235/56. *Country.*—The ink is a printer's ink, which you could not easily make or produce on a small scale as cheaply as the makers supply it.

230/27. *Pharmacist (West Indies).*—You do not say how the *Spt. Tenuior* has become coloured and odourised, so all that we can suggest is that you should shake it up with animal charcoal in small pieces and filter. The better plan would be to distil it, if you have the apparatus.

229/50. *W. F. R.*—Cherry Tooth-paste.—Subjoined is one of a few formulæ which we have:—

Precipitated chalk	..	..	..	..	lb. ij.
Rose Pink	..	..	..	..	lb. j.
Powdered orris	..	..	..	..	3iv.
Glycerine	..	..	..	..	3iv.
Honey	..	..	..	..	3viij.
English oil of lavender	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Oil of cinnamon	..	..	..	..	7ss.
Oil of bergamot	..	..	..	..	3ij.

Mix the powder with the oils and sift three times, then add the glycerine and the honey, and beat up well. Set aside for a month, and if too tough add a sufficiency of water.

233/10. *Darwden.*—The experience of dermatologists is that chrysarobin will not cure every case of ringworm; and we question if thymol would much improve its action in those cases in which it fails. You may try the addition of 10 gr. to the ounce, but you must expect considerable skin-irritation. Salol would give little benefit.

229/40. *Acet. Aromat.*—The following is a good formula for Toilet-vinegar:—

Oils of lavender, rosemary, juniper, pepper-mint, and cinnamon, of each	..	..	3iv.
Oils of lemon and cloves, of each	..	..	3viij.
Rectified spirit	..	..	3iij.
Acetic acid	..	..	3iv.
Water to	..	..	3xvj.

Dissolve the oils in the spirit, add the acid and water, agitate occasionally for a day or two, and filter.

232/15. *H. H.* has a customer who wishes stuff to make the faces, arms, &c., of fifteen young ladies look like those of statues. [Prepared chalk in cones is used for that purpose. See the article on theatrical make-up in our Summer issue.]

236/39. *Lancashire.*—(1) Carmine makes liq. ammoniac of a permanent bright red colour. (2) The brown colour of tr. benzoïn. co. prevents it being made quite red, otherwise dragon's-blood would suit. We do not require two nouns de plume for one set of questions.

211/25. *Country Chemist.*—We do not think the water is usable. The addition of slaked lime 10 gr. and carbonate of soda 5 gr. to each gallon will improve it, but not for drinking purposes.

231/61. *Aberford.*—The following is the Royal Free Hospital formula for Mist. Rhei Aromat.:—

Pulv. rhei	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Pulv. cinnam. co.	..	..	..	..	gr. lxiv.
Aq. ad	..	..	..	..	3viij.

Ft. mistura.

The dose of this is an eighth part. We do not know what "red drops" used in Cornwall for asthma may be, but some subscriber in the county may be able to tell us.

231/39. *Pigmentum.*—See the opinions of subscribers on page 908.

231/13. *Rat.*—Perhaps the formula 222/14, page 807, will suit you. Poultry-spices are nearly all the same, and a little adjustment of the quantities in the above may give you just what you want.

127/21. *T. I.*—A good nut oil is sometimes used in making oleaceous butter-colouring. Cotton-seed oil has also been recommended.

234/23. *Nemo.*—Have you tried the gelatine mucilage referred to in the correspondence columns of last month's issues?

225/58. *J. A.*—To keep vin. colchici bright you must make it with a pale sherry containing the minimum of extractive matter and the maximum of alcohol. The precipitate does not contain any of the active principle, and may be filtered off. The other subject about which you write is dealt with in the new DIARY.

226/20. *New Subscriber.*—The Paraffin Oil to be used for hair-washes should be as free from odour as possible. To make it so, dissolve potass. permang. 5ss. in 10 oz. of water, and add 1 oz. of sulphuric acid to another 10 oz. of water. When cold mix the solutions, and add a pint of paraffin oil. Shake occasionally for a day or two, and decant the oil, which perfume with oil of rose-geranium.

226/4. *P. M. D.*—Camphor, Borax, and Rosemary Hair-wash Powder:—

Flowers of camphor	1..	..	..	..	3ij.
Oil of rosemary	..	..	..	..	3ss.
Dried carbonate of soda	..	..	..	..	3viij.
Dried borax	..	..	..	..	3viij.

Mix well, and sift twice.

Divide each ounce into four 1d. packets.

226/14. *R. B. A.*—We give formulæ for several pastes by Lassar in the "Dispensers' Formulary" of the 1897 DIARY, to which please refer.

228/42. *T. F. E.*—Deliquesced Calcii Chlor.—We think you may with safety regard the solution as 1 in 2, but why not evaporate in a porcelain dish until it solidifies?

228/50. *Albus.*—A gleet of three years' standing is a thing to consult a venereal specialist about, not the Editor of the *C. & D.*

228/51. *J. R.*—We should not care to publish the analysis unless upon very good authority.



238/1. *A Subscriber of over Thirty Years.*—As far as we are able to judge, the willow rods are stained with a solution of potassium permanganate and varnished when dry. Permanganate makes a nice brown stain on wood, the colour varying with the strength of the solution.

237/45. *Hispaniola.*—We can find no evidence of lead in the ointment which you send—simply carbonate of zinc and lard (1 to 4), with perhaps a little wax.

236/46. *Star Cross.*—Liquid for Polishing Brass:—

Rottenstone .. .. .	℥ss.
Peroxide of iron .. .. .	℥ss.
Paraffin oil .. .. .	℥xxx.

Triturate the powders thoroughly, and mix with the paraffin, which should be water-white.

241/5. *Alpha.*—Red-currant Cough-elixer.—Try the following:—

Essence of raspberry .. .. .	℥ij.
Solution of morphine muriate.. .. .	℥ss.
Tincture of senega .. .. .	℥j.
Syrup of squill .. .. .	℥iv.
Syrup of red poppies to w. .. .. .	℥xxx.

Mix.

Doses: Children from 1 to 3 years, 10 to 20 drops; 4 to 7 years, half a teaspoonful; 8 to 14, a small teaspoonful; and for adults, a full teaspoonful three or four times a day—with double the doses at bedtime.

Your present label will suit. The above is as near the composition as we can get. We cannot detect bitter-almond oil in it. Probably you have thought the raspberry to be almond. Equal parts of raspberry and red-poppy syrups may have been used by your predecessor, but that you can ascertain from your assistant.

245/71. *Glasgow.*—The Mixture for Epilepsy owes its action to ammonium bromide, which is dissolved in sweetened water flavoured with lemon and lavender.

157/8. *Lewis.*—(1) The Gout-mixture closely resembles the following:—

Potass. iodidi .. .. .	gr. v.
Potass. bicarbonat. .. .. .	gr. x.
Vin. colchici .. .. .	℥x.
Tr. aurantii .. .. .	℥v.
Aq. dest. ad. .. .. .	℥ss.

M. This for one dose.

(2) The violet coloured liquid used for mixing with cement is glycerine (s.g. 1.232) coloured with methyl-violet.

243/62. *H H C.* sends a sample of a liquid used in Germany for Whitening Leather Belts and other parts of military accoutrements. It is pipeclay mixed with water to form a syrup and suspended by means of a solution of gelatine in acetic acid. There is probably a pinch of ultramarine added to it to give it the perfectly white appearance.

245/51. *Apenta.*—You will find an analysis of St. Jacobs Oil, by Dr. Wm. Murrell, in the *C. & D.*, May 19, 1894, page 692. We cannot add to the information given there.

247/61. *Exmoor.*—(1) Try the following recipe for a Stimulating Pomade similar to your sample:—

Powdered cantharides .. .. .	℥ss.
Yellow wax .. .. .	℥ij.
Neatsfoot oil .. .. .	℥viij.

Digest on a water-bath for two hours, strain through flannel, and keep warm for ten minutes. Then decant from the sediment, and perfume with a few drops of oil of bergamot.

(2) The liquefied carbolic acid contains impurities, but we should think that your customer imagined the caustic effects which he complains about.

248/35. *Save* sends a Teething-powder which is highly spoken of. We find it to weigh 5½ gr., and to be, approximately, as follows:—

Hydrarg. subchlor. .. .. .	gr. ss.
Pulv. potas. chlorat. .. .. .	gr. j.
Pulv. glycyrrhizæ .. .. .	gr. j.
Pulv. sacch. lactis .. .. .	gr. iij.

M.

253/72. *Cyanide.*—We cannot undertake to reply to non-subscribers. Consult an elementary text-book.

249/36. *Bennet.*—*Rat and Mouse Biscuit.*—This is a powerfully arsenical preparation. You can make a similar one from the following formula:—

White arsenic .. .. .	℥iv.
Brown sugar .. .. .	℥j.
Ground cheese .. .. .	℥j.
Ground biscuit .. .. .	℥iij.
Rye meal .. .. .	℥xij.

Mix well, make into a stiff dough, roll out, cut in biscuits, and bake lightly.

252/72. *H. G. B.*—*Balmain's Luminous Paint* consists of a phosphorescent substance incorporated with ordinary paint. The phosphorescent substance is obtained by heating together a mixture of lime and sulphur, or substances containing lime and sulphur, such as alabaster, gypsum, &c., with carbon or other agent, to remove a portion of the oxygen present, or by heating lime in a vapour containing sulphur. In applying this phosphorescent powder, the best results are obtained by mixing it with a colourless varnish made from mastic and turpentine; drying oils, gums, pastes, sizes, &c., may, however, also be used. Another way of making a luminous paint is of French origin, and is as follows:—100 lbs. of a carbonate of lime and phosphate of lime produced by the calcination of sea-shells, and especially those of the genus *Iridacna* and the cuttle-fish bone, are intimately mixed with 100 lbs. of lime well calcined, 25 lbs. of calcined sea-salt, 25-50 per cent. of the whole mass of sulphur, and 3-7 per cent. of "colouring-matter" in the form of a powder composed of monosulphides of calcium, barium, strontium, uranium, magnesium, aluminium, or other mineral or substance producing the same physical appearances—i.e., which, after having been impregnated with light becomes luminous in the dark. After having mixed these five ingredients intimately, the composition obtained is ready for use with the usual paint basis. The trouble is to fit the "colouring-matter."

206/50. *J. P. P.*—Use 4 oz. of glycerine, instead of as much treacle, and water to bring the blacking to the consistency which you desire.

239/43. *Cibum.*—We have obtained from Messrs. Mellin the particulars of their agreement, and find that the retail prices charged by the drug company come strictly within the conditions laid down. The profit is poor enough, but there is no ground for a suggestion of bad faith.

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

*Liq. Bismuthi Co.*—Amongst the lot of useful information in the new DIARY, I am taking the liberty of pointing out one ("*Liq. Bismuthi Co.*," page 278) which is rather weak. I have made this preparation, taking a well-known one as a guide, and I think I am correct in estimating the quantities. I made the *liq. bismuthi* double strength B.P.,



and the sp. chloroform, double strength also. The form is as follows:—

	Equal in 5j.
Liq. bismuthi am. cit. (duplex) ..	3vij. m3j
Spirit. chloroform. (duplex) ..	3ij. m 7½
Tr. nuc. vomicae ..	3ij. m 8
Acid. hydrocyanic. dil., B.P. ..	5iv. m 2
Tinct. cardam. comp. ..	3iv. m12½
Morphinae hydrochlor. ..	gr. v. gr. ½

These quantities make 16½ oz., yours 26½ oz., though some lines are alike.

THOS. SWALES.

Ramsey, Isle of Man, December 7.

Mist. Chlorin. et Quin. (Burney Yeo):—

Pot. chloratis ..	gr. xxx.
Acid. hydroch. (pur.) ..	mxl.
Quin. sulph. ..	gr. xxiv.
Syr. aurantii ..	3j.
Aqua ad ..	3xij.

Dose: 3ss., or 3j. q.q.h.

Take a 12-oz. bottle with a tight-fitting cork, then place in the bottle the pot. chlor. and hydrochloric acid; tightly cork, and let it stand for about half an hour. Then gradually add a little water (slightly warm is better than cold, as it quickly absorbs the chloride), cork the bottle again until the water is well saturated with the chlorine, then gradually add more water, together with the quinine and syrup aurantii, until the bottle is filled, taking care during the process that as little as possible of the chlorine escapes.

L. C. HOLDEN.

Royal Infirmary, Preston, December 6.

The following formula has been in use here some years, and (I believe) appeared in the *Lancet* under Dr. B. Yeo's name:—

Pot. chlor. ..	3ss.
Ac. hyd. pur. ..	mxl.
Aq. ad ..	3xij.

Pour acid on pot. chlor. in bottle, cork, and allow to stand to develop chlorine, then add water and shake after each addition. To this add—

Quin. sulph. ..	gr. 24 to 30
Syr. aurant. ..	3j.

Dose: 3j. every two, three, or four hours.

J. W. BASSANO.

Derbyshire Royal Infirmary Dispensary,  
Derby, December 4.

[Mr. F. H. Bandon also sends a reply.]

Silvering Glass.—In reply to "H. R. S." (212/2), there is a three-solution process given in the Summer issue, July 28, 1894, page 110. Perhaps this may supply his want.

J. WOLSTENHOLME.

Parma Violets.—In your issue of October 24 a formula for this perfume is asked for. I submit you the following, taken from the "Standard Formulary":—

Essence of violet ..	3vij.
Essence of cassie ..	3iv.
Spirit of orris ..	3ij.
Compound spirit of rose ..	3j.
Spirit of almond ..	mxliv.
Tincture of civet ..	3ss.
Tincture of ambergris ..	3ss.
Rectified spirit ..	3j.

The essences are made from their pomades, 1 oz. to 16 oz. rectified spirit.

Spirit of Orris.—Liquid oil of orris, 3j.; S.V.R., 3vij.

Compound Spirit of Rose.—Oil of rose, 3j.; oil of rose-geranium, 3ss.; S.V.R., to 3vij.

Spirit of Almond.—Oil of bitter almonds, m80; S.V.R., 3xviij.

Tincture of Civet.—Civet, 3j.; orris-root, 3j.; S.V.R., 3xviij.

Tincture of Ambergris.—Ambergris, 3j.; orris-root, 3j.; S.V.R., 3xviij.

T. A. SPIVEY (Rio Vista, Cal.).

[We are obliged to Mr. Spivey for this formula; but the "Parma Violet" popular just now contains artificial violet perfume, as well as natural perfumes. The foregoing is really a wood-violet essence. Since this note was written we have received the subjoined.—ED. C. & D.]

247/60. Violet writes:—A few weeks since you expressed a wish for a working formula for Parma violets. I have made a pint, and submit sample and recipe, and shall be

obliged if you will give your opinion, with any suggestions likely to improve it. My customers pronounce it "delightful," but, personally, I think a little more jasmin would give it better tone:—

Ionone ..	5ij.
Tr. benzoin ..	3ss.
Ol. amygd. ess. ..	m x.
Ol. neroli super. ..	m x.
Ess. jasmin ..	3j.
S.V.R. (60 per cent.) ..	3xviij.
Chlorophyl ..	q.s.
Aqua ..	3iv.

[The perfume is very nice indeed, but reduce the benzoin tincture to 3ij., double the jasmin, and add tr. iridis flor. 3j. Then it will be much better. Ext. cannab. ind. may be used to colour the perfume.—ED.]

231/39. How to give Sheep's Coats a nice Clean Colour.—"Use Cooper's sheep-dipping powder," says one correspondent (182/96). "Yellow ochre and burnt umber in suitable proportions for the shade required," says another (245/23).

231/39. Enquiry.—The article used for giving the wool of sheep the required rich colour is known as Oxford Ochre—adull, heavy ochre, in squares of about ½ inch each. This was largely sold some twenty to forty years ago, and has now apparently gone out of date, but may be purchased in Hull. Nottingham, December 5.

S. SCOTT.

"Picric acid is used to give a nice colour to the wool of sheep. It must be used carefully, or the colour will be too deep, and can only be removed by re-dipping in a solution of borax." So writes H. M. T. (248/23).

## INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

255/9. Makers of salprunella-balls.

252/51. Who are the agents for Golcondas cigars?

## Coming Events.

Notices of Association and Society meetings will be inserted in this section free of charge if we receive intimation of such meetings by Wednesday of the week previous to that in which the meetings are to be held.

Saturday, December 19

"Allenburys" Cricket Club. Bohemian Concert, St. Andrew's Institute, Bethnal Green, E., at 7 P.M.

Monday, December 21.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club. Fifth Annual Smoking-concert, in West End Café, Princes Street, at 8.30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 23.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST goes to press. Advertisements for the salmon-coloured supplement should be received at 42 Cannon Street E.C., not later than 5 P.M.

Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association, New Trades Hall, Belmont Street, at 8.30 P.M. Annual Concert, including "Over the Scottish Alps with a Camera," by Mr. J. Porter.

The Midland Pharmaceutical Association Ball is to be held in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, January 24, 1897. The committee are making excellent arrangements, and the affair promises to be the pharmacy ball of the year and of the kingdom. The following are the charges:—Lady's card of admission, 5s.; gentleman's card of admission, 5s. 6d.; supper card, 3s.; and bed and breakfast card, 6s. (double, 10s. 6d.). Those who wish to be there should write to Mr. J. C. McKerzie, Assistant Hon. Secretary, 71 Parade, Birmingham.





